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(54) Title: IMPROVED EXPRESSION OF CRY3B INSECTICIDAL PROTEIN IN PLANTS

(57) Abstract

The present invention discloses methods and compositions comprising a group of novel expression cassettes which provide significantly improved levels of accumulation of Coleopteran inhibitory Cry3B and Cry3B variant amino acid sequences when these are expressed in plants. The preferred embodiments of the invention provide at least up to ten fold higher levels of insect controlling protein relative to the highest levels obtained using prior compositions. In particular, transgenic maize expressing higher levels of a protein designed to exhibit increased toxicity toward Coleopteran pests deliver superior levels of insect protection and are less likely to sponsor development of populations of target insects that are resistant to the insecticidally active protein.

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IMPROVED EXPRESSION OF CRY3B INSECTICIDAL PROTEIN IN PLANTS

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1.1 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention discloses transgenic plants expressing substantially higher levels of insect controlling *Bacillus thuringiensis* δ -endotoxin. Methods for obtaining such plants and compositions, and methods for using such plants and compositions are described. Also disclosed are improved polynucleotide cassettes containing preferred protein coding sequences which impart the substantially higher levels of insect controlling δ -endotoxins. The preferred embodiments of the invention surprisingly provide up to ten fold higher levels of insect controlling protein relative to the highest levels obtained using prior compositions. In particular, transgenic maize expressing higher levels of a protein designed to exhibit increased toxicity toward Coleopteran pests deliver superior levels of insect protection and are less likely to sponsor development of populations of target insects that are resistant to the insecticidally active protein.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Almost all field crops, plants, and commercial farming areas are susceptible to attack by one or more insect pests. Particularly problematic are Coleopteran and Lepidopteran pests. Because crops of commercial interest are often the target of insect attack, environmentally-sensitive methods for controlling or eradicating insect infestation are desirable. This is particularly true for farmers, nurserymen, growers, and commercial and residential areas which seek to control insect populations using ecologically friendly compositions.

The most widely used environmentally-sensitive insecticidal formulations developed in recent years have been composed of microbial protein pesticides derived from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a Gram-positive bacterium that produces crystal proteins or inclusion bodies which are specifically toxic to certain orders and species of insects. Many different strains of *B. thuringiensis* have been identified which produce one or more insecticidal crystal proteins as well as other insecticidal non-crystal forming proteins. Compositions including *B. thuringiensis* strains which produce insecticidal proteins have been commercially available and used as environmentally acceptable insecticides because they are quite toxic to specific target insect pests, but are harmless to plants and to vertebrate and invertebrate animals. More

importantly, because these insect controlling proteins have to be ingested by susceptible target insect pests in order to exert their insecticidal or toxic effects, judicious application of such protein compositions limits or prevents non-target insect members of the susceptible order which may also be susceptible to the composition from significant exposure to the proteins (for example, non-target Lepidopteran species where Lepidopteran specific B.t. crystal protein is used in an insecticidal formulation). Additionally, insects of various orders have been shown to totally lack susceptibility to specifically targeted insecticidal proteins even when ingested in large amounts.

1.2.1 δ -ENDOTOXINS

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δ-endotoxins are used to control a wide range of plant-eating caterpillars and beetles, as well as mosquitoes. These proteins, also referred to as insecticidal crystal proteins, crystal proteins, and Bt toxins, represent a large collection of insecticidal proteins produced by B. thuringiensis that are toxic upon ingestion by a susceptible insect host. Over the past decade research on the structure and function of B. thuringiensis toxins has covered all of the major toxin categories, and while these toxins differ in specific structure and function, general similarities in the structure and function are assumed. A recent review describes the genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology of Bt toxins (Schnepf et al., Bacillus thuringiensis and its Pesticidal Crystal Proteins, Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev. 62:775-806, 1998). Based on the accumulated knowledge of B. thuringiensis toxins, a generalized mode of action for B. thuringiensis toxins has been created and includes: ingestion by the insect, solubilization in the insect midgut (a combination stomach and small intestine), resistance to digestive enzymes sometimes with partial digestion by gut specific proteases catalyzing specifically a cleavage at a peptide site within a protoxin structure which "activates" the toxin, binding of the toxin to the midgut cells' brush border, formation of a pore in the insect midgut cell, and the disruption of cellular homeostasis (English and Slatin, 1992).

1.2.2 GENES ENCODING CRYSTAL PROTEINS

Many of the δ -endotoxins are related to various degrees by similarities in their amino acid sequences. Historically, the proteins and the genes which encode them were classified based largely upon their spectrum of insecticidal activity. A review by Höfte and Whiteley

(1989) discusses the genes and proteins that were identified in *B. thuringiensis* prior to 1990, and sets forth the nomenclature and classification scheme which has traditionally been applied to *B. thuringiensis* genes and proteins. The original nomenclature took advantage of the discovery that the few Bt Cry proteins known at the time generally fell into a limited number of classes, wherein each class represented proteins having specificity for specific orders of insects. For example, *cry*1 genes encoded Lepidopteran-toxic Cry1 proteins. *cry*2 genes encoded Cry2 proteins that were generally toxic to both Lepidopterans as well as to Dipterans. *cry*3 genes encoded Coleopteran-toxic Cry3 proteins, while *cry*4 genes encoded Dipteran-specific toxic Cry4 proteins. The nomenclature has, for the past decade or more become rather confusing with the discovery of more distantly related classes of insecticidal Bt proteins. More recently, a simplified homogeneous nomenclature and basis for classifications of Bt proteins has been adopted and has been reviewed by Schnepf et al. (1998). Schnepf et al. (1998) also provides a structural solution for a Cry1 crystal. This simplified nomenclature will be adopted herein. The convention of identifying Bt genes with lower case, italicized letters (eg. *cry1Ab1*) and identifying Bt proteins with uppercase first character (eg. Cry1Ab1) will also be observed herein

Based on the degree of sequence similarity, the proteins have been further classified into subfamilies. Proteins which appeared to be more closely related within each family were assigned divisional letters such as Cry1A, Cry1B, Cry1C, etc. Even more closely related proteins within each division were given names such as Cry1Ca, Cry1Cb, etc. and still even more closely related proteins within each division were designated with names such as Cry1Bb1, Cry1Bb2, etc.

The modern nomenclature systematically classifies the Cry proteins based upon amino acid sequence homology rather than upon insect target specificities. The classification scheme for many known toxins, not including allelic variations in individual proteins, is summarized in regularly updated tables which can be obtained from Dr. Neil Crickmore at http://epunix.biols.susx.ac.uk/Home/Neil_Crickmore/Bt/index.html.

1.2.3 BIO-INSECTICIDE POLYPEPTIDE COMPOSITIONS

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The utility of bacterial crystal proteins as insecticides was extended beyond Lepidopterans and Dipteran larvae when the first isolation of a Coleopteran-toxic B.

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thuringiensis strain was reported (Krieg et al., 1983; 1984). This strain (described in U.S. Patent 4,766,203, specifically incorporated herein by reference), designated *B. thuringiensis* var. tenebrionis, was reported to be toxic to larvae of the Coleopteran insects Agelastica alni (blue alder leaf beetle) and Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Colorado potato beetle).

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U. S. Patent 5,024, 837 also describes hybrid *B. thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* strains which showed activity against Lepidopteran insects. U. S. Patent 4,797,279 (corresponding to EP 0221024) discloses a hybrid *B. thuringiensis* containing a plasmid from *B. thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* encoding a Lepidopteran-toxic crystal protein-encoding gene and a plasmid from *B. thuringiensis tenebrionis* encoding a Coleopteran-toxic crystal protein-encoding gene. The hybrid *B. thuringiensis* strain produces crystal proteins characteristic of those made by both *B. thuringiensis kurstaki* and *B. thuringiensis tenebrionis*. U. S. Patent 4,910,016 (corresponding to EP 0303379) discloses a *B. thuringiensis* isolate identified as *B. thuringiensis* MT 104 which has insecticidal activity against Coleopterans and Lepidopterans. More recently, Osman et al. disclosed a natural Bacillus thuringiensis isolate which displayed activity against at least two orders of insects and against nematodes (WO 98/30700).

It has been known for more than two decades that compositions comprising Bt insecticidal proteins are effective in providing protection from insect infestation to plants treated with such compositions. More recently, molecular genetic techniques have enabled the expression of Bt insecticidal proteins from nucleotide sequences stably inserted into plant genomes (Perlak et al., Brown & Santino, etc.). However, expression of transgenes in plants has provided an avenue for increased insect resistance to Bt's produced in plants because plants have not been shown to produce high levels of insecticidal proteins. It was initially believed that gross morphological or topological differences in gene structure and architecture between plant and bacterial systems was the limitation which prevented over-expression of Bt transgenes in plants. These differences were seemingly overcome as disclosed by Perlak et al. (US Patent No. 5,500,365) and by Brown et al. (US Patent No.'s 5,424,412 and 5,689,052) wherein transgenes encoding Bt insecticidal protein which contained plant preferred codons were shown to improve the levels of expression. Alternatively, truncating the protoxin coding domain to the shortest peptide coding domain which still encoded an insecticidal protein was also deemed sufficient to overcome the limitation of vanishingly low expression levels of the Bt encoding transgene in planta. Expression levels of Bt proteins in planta from transgenes has varied widely independent

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of the means used for expression, and accumulated protein levels have ranged from virtually undetectable to 2 parts per million to around 20 to 30 parts per million. However, even though all of these approaches provided improved levels of Bt protein accumulation in plants, none provided levels of expression which could ensure that insect resistance would not become a problem without the necessity of coordinate expression of one or more additional insecticidal toxins by the transgenic plant, or alternatively without the coordinate topical application of additional supplemental Bt or insecticidal chemical compositions.

The importance of accumulation of higher levels of Bt toxin for preventing insect resistance to individual Bt toxins has been understood for some time. Various laboratory studies in which selection against Bt was applied over several generations of insects have confirmed that resistance against Bt insecticidal proteins is seldom obtained. It should be emphasized that laboratory conditions represent rather low but constant selection pressure conditions, allowing for the survival of a sub-population of insects which have been subjected to insecticidal pressure and which produce the subsequent generations of insects. Succeeding generations are also maintained on media containing low but constant concentrations of insecticidal protein. Generally, concentrations used for selection pressures range from LC40 to around LC60 or so, however, LC95 concentrations have also tested for the development of resistance. In most cases, resistance is acquired slowly, generally developing within a reasonably few generations, for example 10-50 generations. However, such resistance is not observed where substantially higher levels of toxin are used, or in situations in which multiple toxins are provided.

At present, recombinant plants expressing commercially useful levels of Bt insecticidal protein generally contain only one gene encoding a single class of Bt. Such plants are anticipated to have a very limited duration of use for two reasons. First, these plants are expressing insufficient levels of the insecticidal protein to ensure that all target insects exposed to and feeding from the plant tissues will succumb due to the dose of toxin ingested. Second, because of the insufficient insecticidal protein levels, the potential for development of resistance is unreasonably increased. This is not to say that the level of toxin produced by such transgenic plants is insufficient to be effective. This merely represents the limitations of expression of δ -endotoxins in planta even when using sequences encoding Bt δ -endotoxin which have been modified to conform to plant preferred sequences. One limitation which has been observed for many Bt δ -endotoxin encoding sequences modified for expression in plants is that is has been

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impossible to predict which Bt δ -endotoxin would be effective for expression in plants. (For example, expression of Cry2Aa in cotton plants results in phytotoxicity when targeted to the chloroplast, however expression of a closely related cry2Ab sequence is not phytotoxic when targeted to the chloroplast. (Corbin et al., US Patent Application, Serial No. 09/186,002). Even so, levels of δ -endotoxin protein produced in plants is not sufficient to be effective against all desired target insect species known to be susceptible to a given type and class of δ -endotoxin.

As indicated above, alternative approaches to development of resistance to insecticidal proteins has included ineffective attempts to increase the expression levels of transgenes in plants. Alternatively, additional insecticidal genes could be engineered into plants so that multiple toxins are coordinately expressed. This would provide a more effective means for delaying the onset of resistance to any one combination of Bt's, however, this still does not overcome the limitation of insufficient levels of insecticidal protein accumulating in the recombinant plant(s). An additional alternative to insufficient levels of expression has been to engineer genes encoding Bt insecticidal crystal proteins which demonstrate improved insecticidal properties, having either a broader host range or an increased biological activity, which could conceivably result in requiring less of the recombinant protein to control a target insect species than was required of the native form of the protein.

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The combination of structural analyses of *B. thuringiensis* toxins followed by an investigation of the function of such structures, motifs, and the like has taught that specific regions of crystal protein endotoxins are, in a general way, responsible for particular functions.

Domain 1, for example, from Cry3Bb and Cry1Ac has been found to be responsible for ion channel activity, the initial step in formation of a pore (Walters *et al.*, 1993; Von Tersch *et al.*, 1994). Domains 2 and 3 have been found to be responsible for receptor binding and insecticidal specificity (Aronson *et al.*, 1995; Caramori *et al.*, 1991; Chen *et al.* 1993; de Maagd *et al.*, 1996; Ge *et al.*, 1991; Lee *et al.*, 1992; Lee *et al.*, 1995; Lu *et al.*, 1994; Smedley and Ellar, 1996; Smith and Ellar, 1994; Rajamohan *et al.*, 1995; Rajamohan *et al.*, 1996; Wu and Dean, 1996). Regions in domain 2 and 3 can also impact the ion channel activity of some toxins (Chen *et al.*, 1993, Wolfersberger *et al.*, 1996; Von Tersch *et al.*, 1994).

Unfortunately, while many investigators have attempted, few have succeeded in making mutated crystal proteins with improved insecticidal toxicity. In almost all of the examples of genetically-engineered *B. thuringiensis* toxins in the literature, the biological

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activity of the mutated crystal protein is no better than that of the wild-type protein, and in many cases, the activity is decreased or destroyed altogether (Almond and Dean, 1993; Aronson et al., 1995; Chen et al., 1993, Chen et al., 1995; Ge et al., 1991; Kwak et al., 1995; Lu et al., 1994; Rajamohan et al., 1995; Rajamohan et al., 1996; Smedley and Ellar, 1996; Smith and Ellar, 1994; Wolfersberger et al., 1996; Wu and Aronson, 1992). However, Van Rie et al. have recently accomplished the improvement of a Cry3A δ-endotoxin having increased Coleopteran insecticidal activity by identifying a single mutant having increased insecticidal activity. Van Rie et al. propose a method for identifying mutants having increased insecticidal activity in which the method consists of identifying amino acid mutations which decrease the insecticidal activity, and selectively altering those residues by site directed mutagenesis to incorporate one or more of the naturally occurring 20 amino acids at those positions, and feeding the various forms of the resulting altered protein to western or northern corn rootworms to identify those having improved activity (US Patent 5,659,123). While no sequences were enabled using the method, as mentioned above, Van Rie et al. succeeded in identifying only one sequence having increased activity and did not demonstrate an increase in expression of the mutant form as compared to the native sequence.

For a crystal protein having approximately 650 amino acids in the sequence of its active toxin, and the possibility of 20 different amino acids at each position in this sequence, the likelihood of arbitrarily creating a successful new structure is remote, even if a general function to a stretch of 250-300 amino acids can be assigned. Indeed, the above prior art with respect to crystal protein gene mutagenesis has been concerned primarily with studying the structure and function of the crystal proteins, using mutagenesis to perturb some step in the mode of action, rather than with engineering improved toxins.

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Collectively, the limited successes in the art to develop non-naturally occurring toxins with improved insecticidal activity have stifled progress in this area and confounded the search for improved endotoxins or crystal proteins. Rather than following simple and predictable rules, the successful engineering of an improved crystal protein may involve different strategies, depending on the crystal protein being improved and the insect pests being targeted. Thus, the process is highly empirical.

Accordingly, traditional recombinant DNA technology is clearly not routine experimentation for providing improved insecticidal crystal proteins. What has been lacking in the prior art are rational methods for

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producing genetically-engineered *B. thuringiensis* crystal proteins that have improved insecticidal activity and, in particular, improved toxicity towards a wide range of Lepidopteran, Coleopteran, or Dipteran insect pests. Methods and compositions which address these concerns were disclosed in US Patent Application No. 08/993,170 (December 18, 1997; English et al.) and other related US applications (08/993,722, Dec. 18, 1997, English et al.; 08/993,755, Dec. 18, 1997, English et al.; and 08/996,441, Dec. 18, 1997, English et al.) and in Van Rie et al. (US Patent 5,659,123, Jun 1, 1999). In addition, recombinantly improved δ -endotoxins have continued to be expressed poorly and/or cause phytoxic effects when expressed in plants, thus leading to the recovery of fewer commercially useful transgenic events.

2.0 Summary of the Invention

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Described herein are novel compositions and methods for expressing in transformed plants variant Cry3 B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins having significant Coleopteran inhibitory activity. These compositions and methods advantageously result in plants expressing B. thuringiensis Cry3 δ -endotoxins at increased levels not previously observed for Cry δ -endotoxins. Increased levels of Cry3 δ -endotoxin expression are reflected in the attainment of higher maximal expression levels in individual transgenic insertion events. Unexpectedly, the particular compositions disclosed herein result in the recovery of an increased percentage of transgenic events which manifest expression levels that far exceed threshold levels of expression necessary for Coleopteran insect control and which provide sufficient toxin levels capable of supporting a resistance management strategy. Since Cry3 δ -endotoxins are typically less potent than other δ -endotoxins commonly used to control Lepidopteran or Dipteran target pests when expressed in transgenic plants, attainment of higher maximal levels of Cry3 δ -endotoxin expression and recovery of more transgenic events with effective expression levels are both critical in isolating transgenic events expressing Cry3 δ -endotoxin which exhibit commercially useful levels of target insect control.

Another limitation of the prior art addressed by the present invention is the development of insect resistance to δ -endotoxins provided by plant expression. Specifically, the instant invention provides a superior strategy for the delay or elimination of the development of resistance to Cry3 δ -endotoxins through improved accumulation of δ -endotoxin within plant cells so that levels of the δ -endotoxin are maintained in-planta above a threshold level of protein, typically measured in parts per million (ppm). Improved expression of δ -endotoxins, which also

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should be taken to mean increased expression in view of what has been previously observed in the art, is believed to result in delayed onset of insect resistance and thus extends the utility of plant expressed δ -endotoxins as insect control agents.

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In preferred embodiments, the present invention provides isolated and purified novel Cry3B δ-endotoxin proteins exhibiting particularly effective insecticidal activity directed toward controlling Coleopteran pest insect species. Such δ-endotoxin proteins of the present invention are provided by expression from isolated, purified and improved or enhanced DNA or polynucleotide sequences each comprising a Cry3 δ-endotoxin coding sequence placed under the control of preferred plant functional gene expression elements such as a promoter, an untranslated leader sequence, an intron and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence. Some preferred DNA or polynucleotide sequences may also provide for plastid or chloroplast targeting protein sequences. Preferred DNA constructs of the present invention include those constructs which encode Cry3 δ-endotoxins exhibiting Coleopteran-inhibitory or Coleopteran-controlling activity. In an illustrative embodiment, polynucleotide sequences are assembled into an expression cassette for introduction into plant genomic DNA, wherein the expression cassette comprises a Cry3Bb δ-endotoxin variant coding sequence operably linked to a sequence comprising a promoter, an untranslated leader sequence, an intron and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence. In particular, a transgene localized within a plant operable polynucleotide expression cassette or polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette which is comprised of genetic elements which function in plant cells to express a desired protein from a nucleic acid coding sequence (the transgene) which is operably localized within said expression cassette. The coding sequence is linked upstream to at least a promoter sequence, an untranslated leader sequence (UTL), an intron sequence, and in-frame in certain indicated embodiments to a sequence encoding a plastid or chloroplast targeting peptide. The coding sequence is also linked downstream to at least a plant functional transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence. Polynucleotide sequences comprising such an expression cassette are shown herein to improve expression of the desired protein encoded from within the cassette, improve the number of events obtained from the use of the polynucleotide sequence in plant transformation, wherein said improved number of events contain the desired transgene localized within the expression cassette and exhibit improved levels of expression of

one or more desired proteins. The improved number of events are also surprisingly observed to express the desired protein at levels above 2 to 5 parts per million but in general below 200 to 500 parts per million of total cell protein. Even more surprising were some events in particular which expressed the desired protein at levels well above 500 ppm. Indicated embodiments disclose a sequence encoding a variant Cry3Bb δ-endotoxin comprising the isolated and purified SEQ ID NO:9, from *NcoI* to *Eco*RI as set forth in Figure 1 illustrating plasmid pMON25096. Yet other embodiments disclose a variant Cry3Bb δ-endotoxin coding sequence comprising an isolated and purified SEQ ID NO:11, from *NcoI* to *Eco*RI as set forth in Figure 2 illustrating plasmid pMON33741. It is contemplated, however, that any Cry3 δ-endotoxin exhibiting substantial Coleopteran-inhibitory or Coleopteran-controlling activity greater than or equal to that disclosed in the present invention could be utilized according to the embodiments of the present invention, with those Cry3 proteins bearing substantial homologies to Cry3Bb being particularly preferred.

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In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides for transgenic plants which have been transformed with a DNA construct or expression cassette of the present invention that is expressed and translated at unexpectedly high levels by the plant which results in surprisingly high levels of δ -endotoxin accumulation. Monocotyledenous plants may be transformed according to the methods and with the DNA constructs disclosed herein. However, it is also anticipated that dicotyledenous plants could also be transformed with DNA sequences disclosed herein by one skilled in the art in order to obtain transgenic plants providing unexpectedly useful levels of insect resistance without the risk of development of insect resistance to the δ -endotoxin. The plant transformed by the instant invention may be prepared, in a further preferred embodiment, by a process including obtainment of the isolated and purified DNA construct contained within the expression cassette, and then transforming the plant with the construct so that the plant expresses the protein for which the construct encodes. Alternatively, the plant transformed by the instant invention may be prepared, in a further preferred embodiment, by a process including introduction of the isolated and purified DNA construct into a transformation competent Agrobacterium strain, and then transforming the plant with the Agrobacterium strain containing the construct so that the plant expresses the proteins for which the construct encodes. It has been observed herein that transformation of plants by the disclosed compositions and

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methods results surprisingly in increased frequencies of transformants exhibiting transgene expression as well as in the recovery of individual transgenic events exhibiting unexpectedly higher absolute levels of transgene expression.

It is contemplated that the increased expression levels observed in the disclosed invention will allow for reduced development of insect resistance to Bt δ -endotoxins presented to target insect pests. This may be achieved by transforming a plant with the preferred DNA construct to achieve high rates of Cry3 expression alone, or by simultaneously exposing target insects to the disclosed Cry3 δ-endotoxins along with other compositions effective in controlling Coleopteran species such as variants of Cry3B (English et al., WO 99/31248), variant Cry3A or variant Cry3D (US Patent 5,659,123), CryET33 and CryET34 (Donovan et al., WO 97/17600), CryET70 (US Application Serial No. 09/184,748; Mettus et al., November 2, 1998), Cry6A, Cry6B, Cry8B (US Pat. No. 5,277,905), CryET29 (Rupar et al., WO 97/21587), insecticidal acyl lipid hydrolases, combinations of amino acid oxidases and tedanalactam synthases (Romano et al., US Application Serial No. 09/063,733, filed April 21, 1998), or insecticidal proteins such as VIP1 (Gay, WO 97/26339; Gourlet et al., WO 98/02453) and VIP3 (Estruch et al., US Pat. No. 5,877,012; 1999) among others. Susceptible target insects include *Diabroticus* spp. Wire Worm in Zea mays and Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Say) in Solanum tuberosum, and Boll Weevil in Gossypium species (cotton).

It is therefore contemplated that the compositions and methods disclosed by the present invention will provide many advantages over the prior art including those specifically outlined above. Other advantages include improved control of susceptible target insect pests and achieving season long protection from insect pathogens. An additional advantage of the present invention provides for reducing the number of transgenic events that have to be screened in order to identify one which contains beneficial levels of one or more insect controlling compositions. The present invention also encompasses cells transformed with the DNA constructs disclosed herein. Also, transformation vectors such as plasmids, bacmids, artificial chromosomes, viral vectors and such are contemplated as elements for use in delivering the nucleotide compositions of the present invention into contemplated cells in order to obtain transformed host cells, both prokaryotic and eukaryotic, which express the δ -endotoxin proteins encoded by the novel DNA construct disclosed herein. It is further contemplated that in some instances the genome of a 30 transgenic plant of the present invention will have been augmented through the stable integration

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of an expression cassette encoding a Coleopteran inhibitory or controlling B. thuringiensis δendotoxin or variants thereof as described herein. Furthermore, more than one transgene encoding an insecticidal composition will be incorporated into the nuclear genome, or alternatively, into the chloroplast or plastid genome of the transformed host plant cell. It is envisioned that more than one polynucleotide encoding an insecticidal crystal protein will be incorporated into the genome of a plant cell and it may be desirable to have two or even more sequences encoding insecticidal or other plant beneficial proteins within the nucleotide sequences contained within the cell. Such recombinantly derived proteins may exist as precursors, pro-toxins, or as fusions of beneficial proteins linked by flexible amino acid linker sequences or by protease specific cleavage sequences well known in the art. Chimeras comprising fusions of insecticidal proteins are also envisioned. The offspring of transgenic plant host cells can be manipulated artificially to produce whole recombinant plants exhibiting improved insecticidal properties, and the recombinant nucleotide sequences are shown herein to be heritable. The heritability of the elements is a preferred aspect of this invention, so that the expression elements are able to be delivered to lineal descendants of the original transformed host plant cell, giving rise first to a stably transformed plant whose constituent cells express the desired transgene, albeit tissue specific expression can be selectively manipulated generally through the choice of plant operable promoter selected for use in a given expression cassette, as described above. Transformed plants give rise to seeds containing the heritable expression cassette, and the seeds thus give rise to plants in lineal fashion which contain the expression cassette, generally in Mendelian fashion, particularly when selfed according to well known methods in the art.

3.0 Brief description of the drawings

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Figure 1 illustrates plasmid pMON25096.

Figure 2 illustrates plasmid pMON33741.

Figure 3 illustrates plasmid pMON25097.

Figure 4 illustrates plasmid pMON33748.

Figure 5 illustrates the nucleotide and amino acid sequence translation of a variant Cry3Bb.11098 insecticidal protein as shown in SEQID NO:9.

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Figure 6 illustrates the nucleotide and amino acid sequence translation of a variant Cry3Bb.11231 insecticidal protein as shown in SEQID NO:11.

4.0 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following detailed description of the invention is provided to aid those skilled in the art in practicing the present invention. Even so, the following detailed description should not be construed to unduly limit the present invention as modifications and variations in the embodiments discussed herein may be made by those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

4.1 **DEFINITIONS**

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The following words and phrases have the meanings set forth below.

Biological functional equivalents. As used herein such equivalents with respect to the insecticidal proteins of the present invention are peptides, polypeptides and proteins that contain a sequence or moiety exhibiting sequence similarity to the novel peptides of the present invention, such as Cry3Bb.11231, and which exhibit the same or similar functional properties as that of the polypeptides disclosed herein, including insecticidal activity. Biological equivalents also include peptides, polypeptides and proteins that react with, *i.e.* specifically bind to antibodies raised against Cry3Bb and that exhibit the same or similar insecticidal activity, including both monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies.

Combating or Controlling Insect Damage in an agricultural context refers to reduction of damage in relative units to a crop or plant part caused by infestation of an insect pest. More generally, this phrase refers to reduction in the adverse effects caused by the presence of an undesired insect in any particular location.

Event refers to a transgenic plant derived from one of the following:

- 1. the insertion of foreign DNA into one or more unique sites in the nuclear genomic DNA;
- 2. the insertion of foreign DNA into one or more unique sites in the plastid, chloroplast or mitochondrial genome;

- 3. the introduction of a stable, heritable, epigenetic vector into the cytoplasm of a plastid, chloroplast, or mitochondria; or
- 4. a combination of any of the foregoing processes.

Events derived from these processes contain an expression cassette expressing a desired coding sequence as described herein. Events are also referred to as ITE's (independent transformation events).

Expression: The combination of intracellular processes, including transcription, translation, and other intracellular protein and RNA processing and stabilization functions, undergone by a nucleic acid coding sequence controlled by genetic sequences which function in plant cells to achieve production of a desired product, such as a structural gene encoding an RNA molecule, or an RNA molecule being used as a substrate for a reverse transcriptase enzyme or enzyme complex.

Improved or enhanced expression cassette refers to the specific combination and order of genetic elements associated with the insecticidal protein encoding sequence which, when expressed within a plant cell:

gives rise to the surprising average level of that protein expressed in plants, plant tissue, or plant cells;

gives rise to the unexpected number of transformation events expressing a surprisingly higher average level of insecticidal protein;

gives rise to individual plants, plant tissue, or plant cells expressing an unexpectedly high level of the insecticidal protein; and

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gives rise to plants expressing unexpected levels of insecticidal protein effective in controlling or combating Coleopteran pests and preventing development of resistance by the Coleopteran pest to the particular insecticidal protein.

Insecticidal polypeptide refers to a polypeptide having insecticidal properties, *e.g.*, a polypeptide which exhibits the properties of inhibiting the growth, development, viability or fecundity of target insect pests.

Operably Linked: Nucleic acid or polynucleotide sequences connected sequentially in linear form, so that the properties of one influence the expression characteristics of the other. A promoter, for example, operably linked to other polynucleotide sequences (which may consist of operator or enhancer sequences, untranslated or translated leader sequences, intron sequences,

structural gene coding sequences, non-structural genes, transcription and translation termination sequences, and polyadenylation sequences) influences the expression of a coding or noncoding sequence, whether the product is RNA, protein, or other product. Similarly, an intron or an untranslated leader sequence can influence the expression and stability of sequences operably linked to them, and structural or non-structural gene sequences can be influenced by elements operably linked upstream, within, or downstream.

Plant-Expressible Coding Regions: Amino acid coding regions or open reading frames (ORF's) which are expressible *in planta* because they contain typical plant regulatory elements facilitating their expression, and often include changes to the coding sequence such that plant preferred codons are utilized in place of non-preferred codons where heterologous coding regions are contemplated.

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Plastid Transit Peptide: Any amino acid sequence useful in targeting a linked amino acid, such as a protein fusion, to a subcellular compartment or organelle such as a plastid or chloroplast.

Polynucleotide sequence: Any DNA or RNA sequence of four or more consecutive nucleotides or ribonucleotides. Generally polynucleotide sequences as disclosed herein comprise at least 50 or more nucleotides or ribonucleotides.

Progeny: "Progeny" includes any offspring or descendant of the transgenic plant, or any subsequent plant which contains the transgene(s) in operable form. Progeny is not limited to one generation, but rather encompasses the transformant's descendants so long as they contain or express the transgene(s). Seeds containing transgenic embryos as well as seeds from the transgenic plants and their offspring or descendants which, after Mendelian segregation continue to contain the transgene(s), are also important parts of the invention.

Promoter: A recognition site on a DNA sequence or group of DNA sequences that provide an expression control element for a preferred polynucleotide sequence and to which RNA polymerase specifically binds and initiates RNA synthesis (transcription) of that preferred sequence.

 R_0 is the primary regenerant plant derived from transformation of plant tissue or cells in culture. Subsequent progeny or generations derived from the R_0 are referred to as R_1 (first generation), R_2 (second generation), *etc*.

Regeneration: The process of growing a plant from a plant cell or group of plant cells (e.g., plant protoplast, embryo, callus, or explant).

Structural Coding Sequence refers to a DNA sequence that encodes a peptide, polypeptide, or protein that is made by a cell following transcription of the structural coding sequence to messenger RNA (mRNA), followed by translation of the mRNA to the desired peptide, polypeptide, or protein product.

Structural gene: A gene or polynucleotide sequence containing the coding sequence of a desired polypeptide that is expressed by transcription and translation to produce the desired polypeptide.

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Synthetic gene: Synthetic genes encoding the *B. thuringiensis* δ -endotoxins of the present invention are those prepared in a manner involving any sort of genetic isolation or manipulation which alters the naturally occurring coding sequence of the δ -endotoxin gene. This includes isolation of the gene from its naturally occurring state, manipulation of the gene as by codon modification (as described herein), or site-specific mutagenesis (as described herein), truncation of the gene or any other manipulative or isolative method. A synthetic gene can also be a polynucleotide sequence which is not known to be naturally occurring but which encodes a useful polypeptide or other product such as a tRNA or an antisense polynucleotide. A non-naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence.

Substantial homology: As this term is used herein, it refers to nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences which are about 86% homologous, to about 90% homologous, to about 95% homologous, to about 99% homologous. More specifically, the inventors envision substantial homologues to be about 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 99 percent homologous to the referent nucleic acid sequence of polypeptide.

Terminator: With reference to eukaryotic nuclear gene expression processes, the operable 3' end transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence. With reference to prokaryotic gene expression, and including plastid or chloroplast gene expression, the operable DNA sequence at the 3' end of an open reading frame which, for ORF's expressing protein product, at least one termination codon in frame with the coding sequence of the ORF, which may also be followed by a DNA sequence encoding a transcription termination signal which may cause the translated RNA or mRNA product to form a hairpin or other three dimensional

structure which may or may not act together with one or more soluble structural proteins to cause transcription to be interrupted.

Transformation: A process of introducing an exogenous polynucleotide sequence (*e.g.*, a vector, or a recombinant or non-recombinant DNA or RNA molecule) into a cell or protoplast in which that exogenous polynucleotide is incorporated into a heritable genetic element or is capable of autonomous replication and thus stably maintained within that cell or protoplast as well as in the progeny of that cell or protoplast.

Transformed cell: A cell which contains a heritable genetic element altered by the introduction of one or more exogenous DNA molecules. A transgenic cell. Exemplary transformed or transgenic cells include plant calli derived from a transformed plant cell and particular cells such as leaf, root, stem, *e.g.*, somatic cells, or reproductive (germ) cells obtained from a transgenic plant.

Transgene: A gene construct, expression cassette, or DNA segment or sequence comprising an ORF which is desired to be expressed in the recipient cell, tissue or organism. This may include an entire plasmid, or other vector, or may simply include the functional coding sequence, region, domain, or segment of the transferred DNA sequence.

Transgenic event: A plant or progeny thereof derived from a plant cell or protoplast manufactured or constructed to contain one or more exogenous DNA molecules inserted into the nuclear or other genome of the plant cell, or introduced and stably maintained within the cytoplasm of a plastid, chloroplast, or mitochondria, which confers some physically detectable phenotype upon the plant or progeny thereof.

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Transgenic plant: A plant or progeny thereof which has been genetically modified to contain and express heterologous DNA sequences either as proteins or as nucleic acids. As specifically exemplified herein, a transgenic corn plant is genetically modified to contain and express at least one heterologous DNA sequence operably linked to and under the regulatory control of transcriptional control sequences which function together in plant cells or tissue or in whole plants to achieve expression from a nucleic acid sequence encoding an insecticidal δ -endotoxin protein or an amino acid sequence variant thereof. A transgenic plant may also be referred to as a transformed plant. A transgenic plant also refers to progeny of the initial transgenic plant where those progeny contain and express the heterologous coding sequence

under the regulatory control of the plant-expressible transcription control sequences described herein.

Vector: A polynucleotide capable of replication in a host cell and/or to which another polynucleotide sequence can be operatively linked so as to bring about replication of the linked sequence. A plasmid is an exemplary vector.

The present invention discloses novel DNA constructs comprising polynucleotide sequences encoding B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins. Methods for the construction and expression of synthetic B. thuringiensis genes in plants are well known by those of skill in the art and are described in detail in U. S. Patent 5,500,365. The present invention contemplates the use of Cry3B B. thuringiensis genes in the transformation of both monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants. To potentiate the expression of these genes, the present invention provides DNA constructs comprising polynucleotide segments encoding plastid targeting peptides positioned upstream of and in frame with the polynucleotide sequences encoding the desired B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins, along with various combinations of untranslated leader sequences, plant functional intron sequences, and transcription termination and polyadenylation sequences.

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In one aspect, nucleotide sequence information provided by the invention allows for the preparation of relatively short DNA sequences having the ability to specifically hybridize to gene sequences of the selected polynucleotides disclosed herein. In these aspects, nucleic acid probes of an appropriate length are prepared based on a consideration of selected polypeptide sequences encoding Coleopteran inhibitory Cry3B δ -endotoxin polypeptides, *e.g.*, a sequence such as that shown in SEQID NO:2, SEQID NO:4, SEQID NO:6, SEQID NO:8, SEQID NO:10, and SEQID NO:12. These nucleic acid probes may also be prepared based on a consideration of selected polynucleotide sequences encoding a plastid targeting peptide, such as those shown in SEQID NO:26 The ability of such nucleic acid probes to specifically hybridize to a gene sequence encoding a δ -endotoxin polypeptide or a plastid targeting peptide sequence lends to them particular utility in a variety of embodiments. Most importantly, the probes may be used in a variety of assays for detecting the presence of complementary sequences in a given sample.

In certain embodiments, it is advantageous to use oligonucleotide primers. The sequence of such primers is designed using a polynucleotide of the present invention for use in detecting, amplifying or mutating a defined segment of a crystal protein gene from *B. thuringiensis* using

thermal amplification technology. The process may also be used to detect, amplify or mutate a defined segment of the polynucleotide encoding a plastid targeting peptide. Segments of genes related to the polynucleotides encoding the δ -endotoxin polypeptides and plastid targeting peptides of the present invention may also be amplified by using such primers and thermal amplification methods.

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To provide certain of the advantages in accordance with the present invention, a preferred nucleic acid sequence employed for hybridization studies or assays includes a polynucleotide sequences at least about 14 to 30 or so nucleotides in length complimentary to a nucleotide sequence encoding a crystal protein, or polynucleotide sequences at least about 14 to 30 or so nucleotides in length complimentary to a nucleotide sequence encoding a plastid targeting peptide.

A size of at least 14 nucleotides in length helps to ensure that the fragment will be of sufficient length to form a duplex molecule that is both stable and selective. Molecules having complementary sequences over segments greater than 14 bases in length are generally preferred. In order to increase stability and selectivity of the hybrid, and thereby improve the quality and degree of specific hybrid molecules obtained, one will generally prefer to design nucleic acid molecules having gene-complementary sequences of 14 to 20 nucleotides, or even longer where desired. Such fragments may be readily prepared by, for example, directly synthesizing the fragment by chemical means, by application of nucleic acid reproduction technology, such as the PCRTM technology of U. S. Patents 4,683,195, and 4,683,202, or by excising selected DNA fragments from recombinant plasmids containing appropriate inserts and suitable restriction sites.

The present invention also contemplates an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide of the present invention. Thus, in one embodiment an expression vector is an isolated and purified DNA molecule comprising a promoter operatively linked to a coding region that encodes a polypeptide of the present invention, which coding region is operatively linked to a transcription-terminating region, whereby the promoter drives the transcription of the coding region. The coding region may include a segment encoding a *B. thuringiensis* δ -endotoxin and a segment encoding a plastid target peptide. The DNA molecule comprising the expression vector may also contain a functional intron. As used herein, the terms "operatively linked" or "operably linked" mean that a promoter is connected to a coding region in such a way that the transcription

of that coding region is controlled and regulated by that promoter. Means for operatively linking a promoter to a coding region to regulate both upstream and downstream are well known in the art.

Preferred plant transformation vectors include those derived from a Ti plasmid of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, as well as those disclosed, *e.g.*, by Herrera-Estrella (1983), Bevan (1983), Klee (1985) and Eur. Pat Appl. No. EP 0120516.

Promoters that function in bacteria are well known in the art. Exemplary and preferred promoters for the *B. thuringiensis* crystal proteins include the sigA, sigE, and sigK gene promoters. Alternatively, native, mutagenized, heterologous, or recombinant promoters derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* δ -endotoxin protein coding sequences can be used.

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Where an expression vector of the present invention is to be used to transform a plant, a promoter is selected that has the ability to drive expression in that particular species of plant. Promoters that function in different plant species are also well known in the art. Promoters useful in expression of polypeptide coding sequences in plants are those which are inducible, viral, synthetic, or constitutive as described (Poszkowski *et al.*, 1989; Odell *et al.*, 1985), and/or temporally regulated, spatially regulated, and spatio-temporally regulated (Chau *et al.*, 1989). Preferred promoters include the enhanced CaMV35S promoters, and the FMV35S promoter. Other promoters include the POX promoter, the ScbDNA virus early promoter, and the yellow mottle virus promoter.

In accordance with the present invention, expression vectors designed to specifically potentiate the expression of the polypeptide in the transformed plant may include certain regions encoding plastid targeting peptides (PTP). These regions allow for the cellular processes involved in transcription, translation and expression of the encoded protein to be fully exploited when associated with certain B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins. Such plastid targeting peptides function in a variety of ways, such as for example, by transferring the expressed protein to the cell structure in which it most effectively operates, or by transferring the expressed protein to areas of the cell in which cellular processes necessary for expression are concentrated.

In the case of Cry3B, elevated expression is critical in obtaining transgenic corn with CRW control since the LC₅₀ of Cry3B against CRW is significantly higher than the LC₅₀ of the *B. thuringiensis* toxins currently used to control pests such as Colorado Potato Beetle in potato (Cry3A) or European Corn Borer in corn (Cry1Ab).

Increased expression is also especially valuable in that it provides additional protection against development of resistance *via* a high dose strategy (McGaughey and Whalon, 1993; Roush, 1994). High level expression is even further desirable as it provides sustained insect protection in instances where insecticidal gene expression decreases due to environmental conditions. Additionally and unexpectedly, corn plants transformed with vectors expressing Coleopteran inhibitory Cry3B or variant proteins exhibited normal growth and development.

An example of a plastid or chloroplast targeting peptide (CTP) is a chloroplast targeting peptide. Chloroplast targeting peptides have been found particularly useful in the glyphosate resistant selectable marker system. In this system, plants transformed to express a protein conferring glyphosate resistance are transformed with a PTP that targets the peptide to the cell's cholorplasts. Glyphosate inhibits the shikimic acid pathway which leads to the biosynthesis of aromatic compounds including amino acids and vitamins. Specifically, glyphosate inhibits the conversion of phosphoenolpyruvic acid and 3-phosphoshikimic acid to 5-enolpyruvyl-3-phosphoshikimic acid by inhibiting the enzyme 5-enolpyruvyl-3-phosphoshikimic acid synthase (EPSP synthase or EPSPS). Supplemental EPSPS, conferred *via* insertion of a transgene encoding this enzyme, allows the cell to resist the effects of the gylphosate. Thus, as the herbicide glyphosate functions to kill the cell by interrupting aromatic amino acid biosynthesis, particularly in the cell's chloroplast, the CTP allows increased resistance to the herbicide by concentrating what glyphosate resistance enzyme the cell expresses in the chloroplast, *i.e.* in the target organelle of the cell. Exemplary herbicide resistance enzymes include EPSPS as noted above, glyphosate oxido-reductase (GOX) and the aro-A gene (U.S. Patent No. 4,535,060).

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CTP's can target proteins to chloroplasts and other plastids. For example, the target organelle may be the amyloplast. Preferred CTP's of the present invention include those targeting both chloroplasts as well as other plastids. Specific examples of preferred CTP's include the maize RUBISCO SSU protein CTP, and functionally related peptides. An exemplary CTP polypeptide is shown in SEQ ID NO:26. A polynucleotide sequence encoding for this CTP polypeptide is shown in SEQ ID NO:25.

The expression of a gene which exists in double-stranded DNA form involves transcription of messenger RNA (mRNA) from the coding strand of the DNA by an RNA polymerase enzyme, and the subsequent processing of the mRNA primary transcript inside the nucleus. Transcription of DNA into mRNA is regulated by a region of DNA usually referred to

as the "promoter". The promoter region contains a sequence of bases that signals RNA polymerase to associate with the DNA and to initiate the transcription of mRNA using one of the DNA strands as a template to make a corresponding strand of RNA. The particular promoter selected should be capable of causing sufficient expression of the enzyme coding sequence to result in the production of an effective insecticidal amount of the *B. thuringiensis* protein.

The 3' non-translated region of the chimeric plant genes of the present invention also contains a polyadenylation signal which functions in plants to cause the addition of adenylate nucleotides to the 3' end of the RNA. Examples of preferred 3' regions are (1) the 3' transcribed, non-translated regions containing the polyadenylation signal of *Agrobacterium* tumor-inducing (Ti) plasmid genes, such as the nopaline synthase (NOS) gene and (2) the 3' ends of plant genes such as the pea ssRUBISCO E9 gene (Fischhoff *et al.*, 1987).

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A promoter is selected for its ability to direct the transformed plant cell's or transgenic plant's transcriptional activity to the coding region, to ensure sufficient expression of the enzyme coding sequence to result in the production of insecticidal amounts of the *B. thuringiensis* protein. Structural genes can be driven by a variety of promoters in plant tissues. Promoters can be near-constitutive (*i.e.* they drive transcription of the transgene in all tissue), such as the CaMV35S promoter, or tissue-specific or developmentally specific promoters affecting dicots or monocots. Where the promoter is a near-constitutive promoter such as CaMV35S or FMV35S, increases in polypeptide expression are found in a variety of transformed plant tissues and most plant organs (*e.g.*, callus, leaf, seed and root). Enhanced or duplicate versions of the CaMV35S and FMV35S promoters are particularly useful in the practice of this invention (Kay *et al.*, 1987; Rogers, U. S. Patent 5,378,619). Tandemly duplicated enhancer sequences have been demonstrated to be of particular significance, for example, as described in Neuhaus et al. (Tissue-specific expression from promoter AS-1 in transgenic tobacco. Plant Cell 6: 827-834; 1994).

Those skilled in the art will recognize that there are a number of promoters which are active in plant cells, and have been described in the literature. Such promoters may be obtained from plants or plant viruses and include, but are not limited to, the nopaline synthase (NOS) and octopine synthase (OCS) promoters (which are carried on tumor-inducing plasmids of *A. tumefaciens*), the cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 19S and 35S promoters, the light-inducible promoter from the small subunit of ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase

(ssRUBISCO, a very abundant plant polypeptide), the rice *Act1* promoter, POX promoter, yellow mottle virus promoter, ScBV virus early promoter, the Figwort Mosaic Virus (FMV) 35S promoter, and the AS4 35S promoter (root enhanced expression from 35S promoter linked to multiple tandem as-1 sequences as in Neuhaus et al.). All of these promoters have been used to create various types of DNA constructs which have been expressed in plants (see *e.g.*, McElroy *et al.*, 1990, U. S. Patent 5,463,175).

In addition, it may also be preferred to bring about expression of the B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxin in specific tissues of the plant by using plant integrating vectors containing a tissue-specific promoter. Specific target tissues may include the leaf, stem, root, tuber, seed, fruit, etc., and the promoter chosen should have the desired tissue and developmental specificity. Therefore, promoter function should be optimized by selecting a promoter with the desired tissue expression capabilities and approximate promoter strength and selecting a transformant which produces the desired insecticidal activity in the target tissues. This selection approach from the pool of transformants is routinely employed in expression of heterologous structural genes in plants since there is variation between transformants containing the same heterologous gene due to the site of gene insertion within the plant genome (commonly referred to as "position effect"). In addition to promoters which are known to cause transcription (constitutive or tissue-specific) of DNA in plant cells, other promoters may be identified for use in the current invention by screening a plant cDNA library for genes which are selectively or preferably expressed in the target tissues and then determine the promoter regions.

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An exemplary tissue-specific promoter is the lectin promoter, which is specific for seed tissue. The lectin protein in soybean seeds is encoded by a single gene (*Le1*) that is only expressed during seed maturation and accounts for about 2 to about 5% of total seed mRNA. The lectin gene and seed-specific promoter have been fully characterized and used to direct seed specific expression in transgenic tobacco plants (Vodkin *et al.*, 1983; Lindstrom *et al.*, 1990). An expression vector containing a coding region that encodes a polypeptide of interest can be engineered to be under control of the lectin promoter and that vector may be introduced into plants using, for example, a protoplast transformation method (Dhir *et al.*, 1991). The expression of the polypeptide would then be directed specifically to the seeds of the transgenic plant.

A transgenic plant of the present invention produced from a plant cell transformed with a tissue specific promoter can be crossed with a second transgenic plant developed from a plant cell transformed with a different tissue specific promoter to produce a hybrid transgenic plant that shows the effects of transformation in more than one specific tissue.

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Other exemplary tissue-specific promoters are corn sucrose synthetase 1 (Yang et al., 1990), corn alcohol dehydrogenase 1 (Vogel et al., 1989), corn light harvesting complex (Simpson, 1986), corn heat shock protein (Odell et al., 1985), pea small subunit RuBP carboxylase (Poulsen et al., 1986; Cashmore et al., 1983), Ti plasmid mannopine synthase (McBride and Summerfelt, 1989), Ti plasmid nopaline synthase (Langridge et al., 1989), petunia chalcone isomerase (Van Tunen et al., 1988), bean glycine rich protein 1 (Keller et al., 1989), CaMV 35s transcript (Odell et al., 1985) and Potato patatin (Wenzler et al., 1989). Preferred promoters are the cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV 35S) promoter and the S-E9 small subunit RuBP carboxylase promoter.

The promoters used in the DNA constructs of the present invention may be modified, if desired, to affect their control characteristics. For example, the CaMV35S promoter may be ligated to the portion of the ssRUBISCO gene that represses the expression of ssRUBISCO in the absence of light, to create a promoter which is active in leaves but not in roots. The resulting chimeric promoter may be used as described herein. For purposes of this description, the phrase "CaMV35S" promoter thus includes variations of CaMV35S promoter, *e.g.*, promoters derived by means of ligation with operator regions, random or controlled mutagenesis, *etc*. Furthermore, the promoters may be altered to contain multiple "enhancer sequences" to assist in elevating gene expression. Examples of such enhancer sequences have been reported by Kay *et al.* (1987) and Neuhaus et al. (1994).

The RNA produced by a DNA construct of the present invention also contains a 5' non-translated leader sequence. This sequence can be derived from the promoter selected to express the gene, and can be specifically modified so as to increase translation of the mRNA. The 5' non-translated regions can also be obtained from viral RNAs, from suitable eukaryotic genes, or from a synthetic gene sequence. The present invention is not limited to constructs wherein the non-translated region is derived from the 5' non-translated sequence that accompanies the promoter sequence. As shown below, a plant gene leader sequence which is useful in the present

invention is the petunia heat shock protein 70 (hsp70) leader (Winter et al., 1988), the wheat CAB leader, or the wheat PER leader.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention involves the plastid targeting of the *B. thuringiensis* sequence. Such plastid targeting sequences have been isolated from numerous nuclear encoded plant genes and have been shown to direct importation of cytoplasmically synthesized proteins into plastids (reviewed in Keegstra and Olsen, 1989). A variety of plastid targeting sequences, well known in the art, including but not limited to ADPGPP, EPSP synthase, or ssRUBISCO, may be utilized in practicing this invention. In alternative embodiments preferred, plastidic targeting sequences (peptide and nucleic acid) for monocotyledonous crops may consist of a genomic fragment coding containing an intronic sequence as well as a duplicated proteolytic cleavage site in the encoded plastidic targeting sequences.

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The most preferred CTP encoding nucleic acid sequence, referred to herein as zmSSU CTP (SEQ ID NO:25), consisting of a genomic fragment containing an intronic sequence as well as a duplicated proteolytic cleavage site in the encoded plastidic targeting sequences, was derived from plastidic targeting sequence zmS1 (Russell *et al.*, 1993). Direct translational fusions of zmSSU CTP peptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:26) to the amino terminus of the sequence has been shown to be useful in obtaining elevated levels of the polypeptide in transgenic maize. In-frame fusions of the zmSSU CTP nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:25) to a *cry3b* gene (SEQ ID NO:1) or gene variant can be effected by ligation of an *Nco*I site engineered into the 3' (C-terminal encoding) end of the *zmSSU* CTP sequence to a 5' *Nco*I site engineered into the N-terminal encoding end of the *cry3B* or variant coding sequence.

The preferred CTP sequence for dicotyledonous crops consists of a genomic coding fragment containing the chloroplast targeting peptide sequence from the EPSP synthase gene of *Arabidopsis thaliana* in which the transit peptide cleavage site of the pea ssRUBISCO CTP replaces the native EPSP synthase CTP cleavage site (Klee *et al.*, 1987).

As noted above, the 3' non-translated region of the chimeric plant genes of the present invention contains a polyadenylation signal which functions in plants to cause the addition of adenylate nucleotides to the 3' end of the RNA. Examples of preferred 3' regions are (1) the 3' transcribed, non-translated regions containing the polyadenylate signal of *Agrobacterium* tumor-

inducing (Ti) plasmid genes, such as the nopaline synthase (NOS) gene and (2) plant genes such as the pea ssRUBISCO E9 gene (Fischhoff *et al.*, 1987).

For optimized expression in monocotyledonous plants, an intron may also be included in the DNA expression construct. Such an intron is typically placed near the 5'-end of the mRNA in an untranslated sequence. This intron could be obtained from, but not limited to, a set of introns consisting of the maize Heat Shock Protein (HSP) 70 intron (U. S. Patent 5,424,412; 1995), the rice *Act1* intron (McElroy *et al.*, 1990), the Adh intron 1 (Callis *et al.*, 1987), or the sucrose synthase intron (Vasil *et al.*, 1989). As shown herein, the maize HSP70 intron (SEQID NO:33) and the rice actin intron (SEQID NO:32) are particularly useful in the present invention.

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RNA polymerase transcribes through a coding DNA sequence to a site where polyadenylation occurs. Typically, DNA sequences located a few hundred base pairs downstream of the polyadenylation site serve to terminate transcription. Those DNA sequences are referred to herein as transcription-termination regions. Those regions are required for efficient polyadenylation of transcribed messenger RNA (mRNA).

Constructs will typically include the gene of interest along with a 3' end DNA sequence that acts as a signal to terminate transcription and allow for the poly-adenylation of the resultant mRNA. The most preferred 3' elements are contemplated to be those from the nopaline synthase gene of A. tumefaciens (nos 3'end) (Bevan et al., 1983), the terminator for the T7 transcript from the octopine synthase gene of A. tumefaciens, and the 3' end of the protease inhibitor i or ii genes from potato or tomato. Regulatory elements such as TMV Ω element (Gallie, et al., 1989), may further be included where desired.

Another type of element which can regulate gene expression is the DNA sequence between the transcription initiation site and the start of the coding sequence, termed the untranslated leader sequence. The leader sequence can influence gene expression. Compilations of leader sequences have been made to predict optimum or sub-optimum sequences and generate "consensus" and preferred leader sequences (Joshi, 1987). Preferred leader sequences are contemplated to include those which comprise sequences predicted to direct optimum expression of the linked structural gene, *i.e.* to include a preferred consensus leader sequence which may increase or maintain mRNA stability and prevent inappropriate initiation of translation. The

choice of such sequences will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure. Sequences that are derived from genes that are highly expressed in plants, and in maize in particular, will be most preferred. One particularly preferred leader may be the wheat CAB leader (SEQID NO:31).

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Transcription enhancers or duplications of enhancers could be used to increase expression. These enhancers often are found 5' to the start of transcription in a promoter that functions in eukaryotic cells, but can often be inserted in the forward or reverse orientation 5' or 3' to the coding sequence. Examples of enhancers include elements from the CaMV 35S promoter, octopine synthase genes (Ellis *et al.*, 1987), the rice actin gene, and promoter from non-plant eukaryotes (*e.g.*, yeast; Ma *et al.*, 1988).

The choice of which expression vector and ultimately to which promoter a polypeptide coding region is operatively linked depends directly on the functional properties desired, *e.g.*, the location and timing of protein expression, and the host cell to be transformed. These are well known limitations inherent in the art of constructing recombinant DNA molecules. However, a vector useful in practicing the present invention is capable of directing the expression of the polypeptide coding region to which it is operatively linked.

Typical vectors useful for expression of genes in higher plants are well known in the art and include vectors derived from the tumor-inducing (Ti) plasmid of *A. tumefaciens* described (Rogers *et al.*, 1987). However, several other plant integrating vector systems are known to function in plants including pCaMVCN transfer control vector described (Fromm *et al.*, 1985). pCaMVCN (available from Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) includes the CaMV35S promoter.

In preferred embodiments, the vector used to express the polypeptide includes a selection marker that is effective in a plant cell, preferably a drug resistance selection marker. One preferred drug resistance marker is the gene whose expression results in kanamycin resistance; *i.e.* the chimeric gene containing the nopaline synthase promoter, Tn5 neomycin phosphotransferase II (*nptII*) and nopaline synthase 3' non-translated region described (Rogers *et al.*, 1988).

Means for preparing expression vectors are well known in the art. Expression (transformation) vectors used to transform plants and methods of making those vectors are described in U. S. Patents 4,971,908, 4,940,835, 4,769,061 and 4,757,011. Those vectors can be modified to include a coding sequence in accordance with the present invention.

A coding region that encodes a polypeptide having the ability to confer insecticidal activity to a cell is preferably a polynucleotide encoding a *B. thuringiensis* δ-endotoxin or a functional equivalent of such a polynucleotide. In accordance with such embodiments, a coding region comprising the DNA sequences of SEQID NO:1, SEQID NO:3, SEQID NO:5, SEQID NO:7, SEQID NO:9, and SEQID NO:11 are also preferred.

Specific *B. thuringiensis* δ-endotoxin polypeptide-encoding ORF's contained within expression cassettes that have been shown to to express the *B. thuringiensis* δ-endotoxins at high levels in transformed plants. Preferred cassettes include those contained in plasmids pMON33709, pMON33710, pMON33722, pMON33723, pMON25096, pMON25097, pMON33741, and pMON33748. The expression cassettes in these plasmids are respectively encoded for by the sequences shown in SEQID NO:13, SEQID NO:15, SEQID NO:36, SEQID NO:38, SEQID NO:17, SEQID NO:19, SEQID NO:21, and SEQID NO:23. More preferably, plants may be successfully transformed with any expression cassettes comprising the nucleotide sequences of nucleotide 14 to 3431 of SEQID NO:36, 14 to 3025 of SEQID NO:38, 14 to 3431 of SEQID NO:17, 14 to 3020 of SEQID NO:19, 14 to 3020 of SEQID NO:21, or 25 to 3450 of SEQID NO:23 (pMON33722, pMON33723, pMON25096, pMON25097, pMON33741, and pMON33748). Most preferably, plants may be successfully transformed with any expression cassettes comprising the nucleotide sequences of nucleotide 14 to 3431 of SEQID NO:17, 14 to 3020 of SEQID NO:19, 14 to 3020 of SEQID NO:21, or 25 to 3450 of SEQID NO:23 (pMON25096, pMON25097, pMON33741, and pMON33748).

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The work described herein has identified methods of potentiating *in planta* expression of *B. thuringiensis* δ-endotoxins, which confer resistance to insect pathogens when incorporated into the genome of susceptible plants. U. S. Patent 5,500,365 describes a method for synthesizing plant genes to optimize the expression level of the protein for which the synthesized gene encodes. This method relates to the modification of the structural gene sequences of the exogenous transgene, to make them more "plant-like" and therefore more likely to be translated and expressed by the plant. A similar method for enhanced expression of transgenes in monocotyledonous plants is disclosed in U. S. Patent 5,689,052. Agronomic, horticultural, ornamental, and other economically or commercially useful plants can be made in accordance

with the methods described herein, to express B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins at levels high enough to confer resistance to insect pathogens.

Such plants may co-express the *B. thuringiensis* δ -endotoxin polypeptide along with other antifungal, antibacterial, or antiviral pathogenesis-related peptides, polypeptides, or proteins; insecticidal proteins; proteins conferring herbicide resistance; and proteins involved in improving the quality of plant products or agronomic performance of plants. Simultaneous co-expression of multiple proteins in plants is advantageous in that it exploits more than one mode of action to control plant pathogenic damage. This can minimize the possibility of developing resistant pathogen strains, broaden the scope of resistance, and potentially result in a synergistic insecticidal effect, thereby enhancing plants ability to resist insect infestation (WO 92/17591).

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Ultimately, the most desirable DNA segments for introduction into a monocot genome may be homologous genes or gene families which encode a desired trait (for example, increased yield), and which are introduced under the control of novel promoters or enhancers, *etc.*, or perhaps even homologous or tissue specific (*e.g.*, root-collar / sheath-, whorl-, stalk-, earshank-, kernel- or leaf-specific) promoters or control elements. Indeed, it is envisioned that a particular use of the present invention may be the production of transformants comprising a transgene which is targeted in a tissue-specific manner. For example, insect resistant genes may be expressed specifically in the whorl and collar/sheath tissues which are targets for the first and second broods, respectively, of ECB. Likewise, it is desireable that genes encoding proteins with particular activity against rootworm be preferentially expressed in root tissues.

Vectors for use in tissue-specific targeting of gene expression in transgenic plants typically will include tissue-specific promoters and also may include other tissue-specific control elements such as enhancer sequences. Promoters which direct specific or enhanced expression in certain plant tissues will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure.

It also is contemplated that tissue specific expression may be functionally accomplished by introducing a constitutively expressed gene (all tissues) in combination with an antisense gene that is expressed only in those tissues where the gene product is not desired. For example, a gene coding for the crystal toxin protein from *B. thuringiensis* may be introduced such that it is expressed in all tissues using the 35S promoter from Cauliflower Mosaic Virus. Alternatively, a rice actin promoter or a histone promoter from a dicot or monocot species also could be used for constitutive expression of a gene. Furthermore, it is contemplated that promoters combining

elements from more than one promoter may be useful. For example, U. S. Patent 5,491,288 discloses combining a Cauliflower Mosaic Virus promoter with a histone promoter. Therefore, expression of an antisense transcript of a Bt δ -endotoxin gene in a maize kernel, using for example a zein promoter, would prevent accumulation of the δ -endotoxin in seed. Hence the protein encoded by the introduced gene would be present in all tissues except the kernel. It is specifically contemplated by the inventors that a similar strategy could be used with the instant invention to direct expression of a screenable or selectable marker in seed tissue.

Alternatively, one may wish to obtain novel tissue-specific promoter sequences for use in accordance with the present invention. To achieve this, one may first isolate cDNA clones from the tissue concerned and identify those clones which are expressed specifically in that tissue, for example, using Northern blotting. Ideally, one would like to identify a gene that is not present in a high copy number, but which gene product is relatively abundant in specific tissues. The promoter and control elements of corresponding genomic clones may thus be localized using the techniques of molecular biology known to those of skill in the art.

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It is contemplated that expression of some genes in transgenic plants will be desired only under specified conditions. For example, it is proposed that expression of certain genes that confer resistance to environmentally stress factors such as drought will be desired only under actual stress conditions. It further is contemplated that expression of such genes throughout a plants development may have detrimental effects. It is known that a large number of genes exist that respond to the environment. For example, expression of some genes such as *rbcS*, encoding the small subunit of ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase, is regulated by light as mediated through phytochrome. Other genes are induced by secondary stimuli. For example, synthesis of abscisic acid (ABA) is induced by certain environmental factors, including but not limited to water stress. A number of genes have been shown to be induced by ABA (Skriver and Mundy, 1990). It also is expected that expression of genes conferring resistance to insect predation would be desired only under conditions of actual insect infestation. Therefore, for some desired traits, inducible expression of genes in transgenic plants will be desired.

It is proposed that, in some embodiments of the present invention, expression of a gene in a transgenic plant will be desired only in a certain time period during the development of the plant. Developmental timing frequently is correlated with tissue specific gene expression. For

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example expression of zein storage proteins is initiated in the endosperm about 15 days after pollination.

It is contemplated that the method described in this invention could be used to obtain substantially improved expression of a number of novel *B. thuringiensis* endotoxins isolated as described below. Identification of new *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains encoding crystalline endotoxins with insecticidal activity has been described previously (Donovan *et al.*, 1992). Isolation of the *B. thuringiensis* endotoxin, followed by amino terminal amino acid sequencing, back-translation of the amino acid sequence to design an oligonucleotide probe or use of a related *B. thuringiensis* gene as a probe, followed by cloning of the gene encoding the endotoxin by hybridization are familiar to those skilled in the art and have been described (see *e.g.*, Donovan *et al.*, 1992, U. S. Patent 5,264,364). Cry3Bb *Bacillus thuringiensis* δ-endotoxins with improved Coleopteran inhibitory activity can be achieved using the methods described in English et al. (WO99/31248).

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A plant transformed with an expression vector of the present invention is also contemplated. A transgenic plant derived from such a transformed or transgenic cell is also contemplated. Those skilled in the art will recognize that a chimeric plant gene containing a structural coding sequence of the present invention can be inserted into the genome of a plant by methods well known in the art. Such methods for DNA transformation of plant cells include *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant transformation, the use of liposomes, transformation using viruses or pollen, electroporation, protoplast transformation, gene transfer into pollen, injection or vacuum infiltration (Bechtold et al., Meth. Mo. Biol., 82:259-266; 1998) into reproductive organs, injection into immature embryos and particle bombardment. Each of these methods has distinct advantages and disadvantages. Thus, one particular method of introducing genes into a particular plant strain may not necessarily be the most effective for another plant strain, but it is well known which methods are useful for a particular plant strain.

Technology for introduction of DNA into cells is well-known to those of skill in the art. Four general methods for delivering a gene into cells have been described: (1) chemical methods (Graham and van der Eb, 1973); (2) physical methods such as microinjection (Capecchi, 1980), electroporation (Wong and Neumann, 1982; Fromm *et al.*, 1985) and the gene gun (Johnston and Tang, 1994; Fynan *et al.*, 1993); (3) viral vectors (Clapp, 1993; Lu *et al.*, 1993; Eglitis and

Anderson, 1988a; 1988b); and (4) receptor-mediated mechanisms (Curiel et al., 1991; 1992; Wagner et al., 1992).

An advantageous method for delivering transforming DNA segments to plant cells is microprojectile bombardment. In this method, particles may be coated with nucleic acids and delivered into cells by a propelling force. Exemplary particles include those comprised of tungsten, gold, platinum, and the like. Using these particles, DNA is carried through the cell wall and into the cytoplasm on the surface of small metal particles as described (Klein *et al.*, 1987; Klein *et al.*, 1988; Kawata *et al.*, 1988). The metal particles penetrate through several layers of cells and thus allow the transformation of cells within tissue explants.

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An advantage of microprojectile bombardment, in addition to it being an effective means of reproducibly stably transforming plant cells, is that neither the isolation of protoplasts (Cristou et al., 1988) nor the susceptibility to Agrobacterium infection is required. An illustrative embodiment of a method for delivering DNA into plant cells by acceleration is a Biolistics Particle Delivery System, which can be used to propel particles coated with DNA or cells through a screen, such as a stainless steel or Nytex screen, onto a filter surface covered with the plant cultured cells in suspension. The screen disperses the particles so that they are not delivered to the recipient cells in large aggregates. It is believed that a screen intervening between the projectile apparatus and the cells to be bombarded reduces the size of projectiles aggregate and may contribute to a higher frequency of transformation by reducing damage inflicted on the recipient cells by projectiles that are too large.

For the bombardment, cells in suspension are preferably concentrated on filters or solid culture medium. Alternatively, immature embryos or other target cells may be arranged on solid culture medium. The cells to be bombarded are positioned at an appropriate distance below the macroprojectile stopping plate. If desired, one or more screens are also positioned between the acceleration device and the cells to be bombarded. Through the use of techniques set forth herein one may obtain up to 1000 or more foci of cells transiently expressing a marker gene. The number of cells in a focus which express the exogenous gene product 48 hours post-bombardment often range from 1 to 10 and average 1 to 3.

In bombardment transformation, one may optimize the prebombardment culturing conditions and the bombardment parameters to yield the maximum numbers of stable transformants. Both the physical and biological parameters for bombardment are important in

this technology. Physical factors are those that involve manipulating the DNA/microprojectile precipitate or those that affect the flight and velocity of either the macro- or microprojectiles. Biological factors include all steps involved in manipulation of cells before and immediately after bombardment, the osmotic adjustment of target cells to help alleviate the trauma associated with bombardment, and also the nature of the transforming DNA, such as linearized DNA or intact supercoiled plasmids. It is believed that pre-bombardment manipulations are especially important for successful transformation of immature plant embryos.

Accordingly, it is contemplated that one may desire to adjust various of the bombardment parameters in small scale studies to fully optimize the conditions. One may particularly wish to adjust physical parameters such as gap distance, flight distance, tissue distance, and helium pressure. One may also minimize the trauma reduction factors (TRFs) by modifying conditions which influence the physiological state of the recipient cells and which may therefore influence transformation and integration efficiencies. For example, the osmotic state, tissue hydration and the subculture stage or cell cycle of the recipient cells may be adjusted for optimum transformation. The execution of other routine adjustments will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure.

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The methods of particle-mediated transformation is well-known to those of skill in the art. U. S. Patent 5,015,580 describes the transformation of soybeans using such a technique.

Agrobacterium-mediated transfer is a widely applicable system for introducing genes into plant cells because the DNA can be introduced into whole plant tissues, thereby bypassing the need for regeneration of an intact plant from a protoplast. The use of Agrobacterium-mediated plant integrating vectors to introduce DNA into plant cells is well known in the art. See, for example, the methods described (Fraley et al., 1985; Rogers et al., 1987). The genetic engineering of cotton plants using Agrobacterium-mediated transfer is described in U. S. Patent 5,004,863; like transformation of lettuce plants is described in U. S. Patent 5,349,124; and the Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of soybean is described in U. S. Patent 5,416,011. Further, the integration of the Ti-DNA is a relatively precise process resulting in few rearrangements. The region of DNA to be transferred is defined by the border sequences, and intervening DNA is usually inserted into the plant genome as described (Spielmann et al., 1986; Jorgensen et al., 1987).

Modern *Agrobacterium* transformation vectors are capable of replication in *E. coli* as well as *Agrobacterium*, allowing for convenient manipulations as described (Klee *et al.*, 1985). Moreover, recent technological advances in vectors for *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene transfer have improved the arrangement of genes and restriction sites in the vectors to facilitate construction of vectors capable of expressing various polypeptide coding genes. The vectors described (Rogers *et al.*, 1987), have convenient multi-linker regions flanked by a promoter and a polyadenylation site for direct expression of inserted polypeptide coding genes and are suitable for present purposes. In addition, *Agrobacterium* containing both armed and disarmed Ti genes can be used for the transformations. In those plant varieties where *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation is efficient, it is the method of choice because of the facile and defined nature of the gene transfer.

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Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of leaf disks and other tissues such as cotyledons and hypocotyls appears to be limited to plants that Agrobacterium naturally infects. Agrobacterium-mediated transformation is most efficient in dicotyledonous plants. Few monocots appear to be natural hosts for Agrobacterium, although transgenic plants have been produced in asparagus using Agrobacterium vectors as described (Bytebier et al., 1987). Other monocots recently have also been transformed with Agrobacterium. Included in this group are corn (Ishida et al.) and rice (Cheng et al.).

A transgenic plant formed using *Agrobacterium* transformation methods typically contains a single gene on one chromosome. Such transgenic plants can be referred to as being heterozygous for the added gene. However, inasmuch as use of the word "heterozygous" usually implies the presence of a complementary gene at the same locus of the second chromosome of a pair of chromosomes, and there is no such gene in a plant containing one added gene as here, it is believed that a more accurate name for such a plant is an independent segregant, because the added, exogenous gene segregates independently during mitosis and meiosis.

An independent segregant may be preferred when the plant is commercialized as a hybrid, such as corn. In this case, an independent segregant containing the gene is crossed with another plant, to form a hybrid plant that is heterozygous for the gene of interest.

An alternate preference is for a transgenic plant that is homozygous for the added structural gene; *i.e.* a transgenic plant that contains two added genes, one gene at the same locus on each chromosome of a chromosome pair. A homozygous transgenic plant can be obtained by

sexually mating (selfing) an independent segregant transgenic plant that contains a single added gene, germinating some of the seed produced and analyzing the resulting plants produced for gene of interest activity and mendelian inheritance indicating homozygosity relative to a control (native, non-transgenic) or an independent segregant transgenic plant.

Two different transgenic plants can be mated to produce offspring that contain two independently segregating added, exogenous genes. Selfing of appropriate progeny can produce plants that are homozygous for both added, exogenous genes that encode a polypeptide of interest. Back-crossing to a parental plant and out-crossing with a non-transgenic plant are also contemplated.

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Transformation of plant protoplasts can be achieved using methods based on calcium phosphate precipitation, polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, and combinations of these treatments (see *e.g.*, Potrykus *et al.*, 1985; Lorz *et al.*, 1985; Fromm *et al.*, 1985; Uchimiya *et al.*, 1986; Callis *et al.*, 1987; Marcotte *et al.*, 1988). Application of these systems to different plant germplasm depends upon the ability to regenerate that particular plant variety from protoplasts. Illustrative methods for the regeneration of cereals from protoplasts are described (see, *e.g.*, Fujimura *et al.*, 1985; Toriyama *et al.*, 1986; Yamada *et al.*, 1986; Abdullah *et al.*, 1986). To transform plant germplasm that cannot be successfully regenerated from protoplasts, other ways to introduce DNA into intact cells or tissues can be utilized. For example, regeneration of cereals from immature embryos or explants can be effected as described (Vasil, 1988). DNA can also be introduced into plants by direct DNA transfer into pollen as described (Zhou *et al.*, 1983; Hess, 1987). Expression of polypeptide coding genes can be obtained by injection of the DNA into reproductive organs of a plant as described (Pena *et al.*, 1987). DNA can also be injected directly into the cells of immature embryos and the rehydration of desiccated embryos as described (Neuhaus *et al.*, 1987; Benbrook *et al.*, 1986).

Unmodified bacterial genes are often poorly expressed in transgenic plant cells. Several reports have disclosed methods for improving expression of recombinant genes in plants (Murray et al., 1989; Diehn et al., 1996; Iannacone et al., 1997; Rouwendal et al., 1997; Futterer et al., 1997; and Futterer and Hohn, 1996). These reports disclose various methods for engineering coding sequences to represent sequences which are more efficiently translated based on plant codon frequency tables, improvements in codon third base position bias, using recombinant sequences which avoid suspect polyadenylation or A/T rich domains or intron

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splicing concensus sequences. While these methods for synthetic gene construction are notable, synthetic genes of the present invention were prepared according to the method of Brown et al. (US Pat. No. 5,689,052; 1997). Thus, the present invention provides a method for preparing synthetic plant genes express in planta a desired protein product at levels significantly higher than the wild-type genes. Briefly, according to Brown et al., the frequency of rare and semi-rare monocotyledonous codons in a polynucleotide sequence encoding a desired protein are reduced and replaced with more preferred monocotyledonous codons. Enhanced accumulation of a desired polypeptide encoded by a modified polynucleotide sequence in a monocotyledonous plant is the result of increasing the frequency of preferred codons by analyzing the coding sequence in successive six nucleotide fragments and altering the sequence based on the frequency of appearance of the six-mers as to the frequency of appearance of the rarest 284, 484, and 664 six-mers in monocotyledenous plants. Furthermore, Brown et al. disclose the enhanced expression of a recombinant gene by applying the method for reducing the frequency of rare codons with methods for reducing the occurrence of polyadenylation signals and intron splice sites in the nucleotide sequence, removing self-complementary sequences in the nucleotide sequence and replacing such sequences with nonself-complementary nucleotides while maintaining a structural gene encoding the polypeptide, and reducing the frequency of occurrence of 5'-CG-3' dinucleotide pairs in the nucleotide sequence. These steps are performed sequentially and have a cumulative effect resulting in a nucleotide sequence containing a preferential utilization of the more-preferred monocotyledonous codons for monocotyledonous plants for a majority of the amino acids present in the desired polypeptide.

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Thus, the amount of a gene coding for a polypeptide of interest (*i.e.* a bacterial crystal protein or δ -endotoxin polypeptide or such δ -endotoxin linked to a plastid targeting peptide) can be increased in plants by transforming those plants using transformation methods such as those disclosed herein.

After effecting delivery of exogenous DNA to recipient cells, the next step to obtain a transgenic plant generally concern identifying the transformed cells for further culturing and plant regeneration. As mentioned herein, in order to improve the ability to identify transformants, it is preferable to employ a selectable or screenable marker gene as, or in addition to, the expressible gene of interest. In this case, one would then generally assay the potentially

transformed cell population by exposing the cells to a selective agent or agents, or one would screen the cells for the desired marker gene trait.

An exemplary embodiment of methods for identifying transformed cells involves exposing the transformed cultures to a selective agent, such as a metabolic inhibitor, an antibiotic, herbicide or the like. Cells which have been transformed and have stably integrated a marker gene conferring resistance to the selective agent used, will grow and divide in culture. Sensitive cells will not be amenable to further culturing. One example of a preferred marker gene encoding an EPSPS synthase which is resistant to glyphosate inhibition. When this gene is used as a selectable marker, the putatively transformed cell culture is treated with glyphosate. Upon treatment, transgenic cells will be available for further culturing while sensitive, or nontransformed cells, will not. This method is described in detail in U. S. Patent 5,569,834. Another example of a preferred selectable marker system is the nptII system by which resistance to the antibiotics kanamycin, neomycin, and paromomycin or related antibiotics is conferred, as described in U. S. Patent 5,569,834. Again, after transformation with this system transformed cells containing a plant expressible nptII gene will be available for further culturing upon treatment with kanamycin or related antibiotic, while non-transformed cells will not. Use of this type of a selectable marker system is described in Brown et al. (U S Patent No. 5,424,412). Another screenable marker which may be used is the gene coding for green fluorescent protein. All contemplated assays are nondestructive and transformed cells may be cultured further following identification.

It is further contemplated that combinations of screenable and selectable markers will be useful for identification of transformed cells. In some cell or tissue types a selection agent, such as glyphosate or kanamycin, may either not provide enough killing activity to clearly recognize transformed cells or may cause substantial nonselective inhibition of transformants and non-transformants alike, thus causing the selection technique to not be effective. It is proposed that selection with a growth inhibiting compound, such as glyphosate at concentrations below those that cause 100% inhibition followed by screening of growing tissue for expression of a screenable marker gene such as kanamycin would allow one to recover transformants from cell or tissue types that are not amenable to selection alone. It is proposed that combinations of selection and screening may enable one to identify transformants in a wider variety of cell and tissue types.

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The development or regeneration of plants from either single plant protoplasts or various explants is well known in the art (Weissbach and Weissbach, 1988). This regeneration and growth process typically includes the steps of selection of transformed cells, culturing those individualized cells through the usual stages of embryonic development through the rooted plantlet stage. Transgenic embryos and seeds are similarly regenerated. The resulting transgenic rooted shoots are thereafter planted in an appropriate plant growth medium such as soil.

The development or regeneration of plants containing the foreign, exogenous gene that encodes a polypeptide of interest introduced by *Agrobacterium* from leaf explants can be achieved by methods well known in the art such as described (Horsch *et al.*, 1985). In this procedure, transformants are cultured in the presence of a selection agent and in a medium that induces the regeneration of shoots in the plant strain being transformed as described (Fraley *et al.*, 1983). In particular, U. S. Patent 5,349,124 details the creation of genetically transformed lettuce cells and plants resulting therefrom which express hybrid crystal proteins conferring insecticidal activity against *Lepidopteran* larvae to such plants. This procedure typically produces shoots within two to four months and those shoots are then transferred to an appropriate root-inducing medium containing the selective agent and an antibiotic to prevent bacterial growth. Shoots that rooted in the presence of the selective agent to form plantlets are then transplanted to soil or other media to allow the production of roots. These procedures vary depending upon the particular plant strain employed, such variations being well known in the art.

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A transgenic plant of this invention thus has an increased amount of a coding region encoding a B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxin polypeptide or variant thereof or may encode such a δ -endotoxin linked to a plastid targeting peptide. A preferred transgenic plant is an independent segregant and can transmit that gene and its activity to its progeny. A more preferred transgenic plant is homozygous for that gene, and transmits that gene to all of its offspring on sexual mating. Seed from a transgenic plant may be grown in the field or greenhouse, and resulting sexually mature transgenic plants are self-pollinated to generate true breeding plants. The progeny from these plants become true breeding lines that are evaluated for increased expression of the transgene encoding the δ -endotoxin.

To identify a transgenic plant expressing high levels of the δ -endotoxin of interest, it is necessary to screen the herbicide or antibiotic resistant transgenic, regenerated plants (R_0 generation) for insecticidal activity and/or expression of the gene of interest. This can be

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accomplished by various methods well known to those skilled in the art, including but not limited to: 1) obtaining small tissue samples from the transgenic R₀ plant and directly assaying the tissue for activity against susceptible insects in parallel with tissue derived from a non-expressing, negative control plant. For example, R₀ transgenic corn plants expressing *B*. thuringiensis endotoxins such as Cry3B can be identified by assaying leaf tissue or root tissue derived from such plants for activity against CRW; 2) analysis of protein extracts by enzyme linked immunoassays (ELISAs) specific for the gene of interest (Cry3B); or 3) reverse transcriptase thermal amplification to identify events expressing the gene of interest.

The genes and δ -endotoxins according to the subject invention include not only the full length sequences disclosed herein but also fragments of these sequences, or fusion proteins, which retain the characteristic insecticidal activity of the sequences specifically exemplified herein.

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It should be apparent to a person of skill in the art that insecticidal δ -endotoxins can be identified and obtained through several means. The specific genes, or portions thereof, may be obtained from a culture depository, or constructed synthetically, for example, by use of a gene machine. Variations of these genes may be readily constructed using standard techniques for making point mutations. Also, fragments of these genes can be made using commercially available exonucleases or endonucleases according to standard procedures. For example, enzymes such as Bal31 or site-directed mutagenesis can be used to systematically cut off nucleotides from the ends of these genes. Also, genes which code for active fragments may be obtained using a variety of other restriction enzymes. Proteases may be used to directly obtain active fragments of these δ -endotoxins.

Equivalent δ -endotoxins and/or genes encoding these δ -endotoxins can also be isolated from *Bacillus* strains and/or DNA libraries using the teachings provided herein. For example, antibodies to the δ -endotoxins disclosed and claimed herein can be used to identify and isolate other δ -endotoxins from a mixture of proteins. Specifically, antibodies may be raised to the portions of the δ -endotoxins which are most constant and most distinct from other *B*. *thuringiensis* δ -endotoxins. These antibodies can then be used to specifically identify equivalent δ -endotoxins with the characteristic insecticidal activity by immunoprecipitation, enzyme linked immunoassay (ELISA), or Western blotting.

A further method for identifying the δ -endotoxins and genes of the subject invention is through the use of oligonucleotide probes. These probes are nucleotide sequences having a detectable label. As is well known in the art, if the probe molecule and nucleic acid sample hybridize when together in a sample by forming hydrogen bonds between the two molecules, it can be reasonably assumed that the probe and sample are essentially identical or substantially similar or homologous at least along the length of the probe. The probe's detectable label provides a means for determining in a known manner whether hybridization has occurred. Such a probe analysis provides a rapid method for identifying insecticidal δ -endotoxin genes of the subject invention.

Duplex formation and stability depend on substantial complementary between the two strands of a hybrid, and, as noted above, a certain degree of mismatch can be tolerated. Therefore, the probes of the subject invention include mutations (both single and multiple), deletions, insertions of the described sequences, and combinations thereof, wherein said mutations, insertions and deletions permit formation of stable hybrids with the target polynucleotide of interest. Mutations, insertions, and deletions can be produced in a given polynucleotide sequence in many ways, by methods currently known to an ordinarily skilled artisan, and perhaps by other methods which may become known in the future.

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The potential variations in the probes listed is due, in part, to the redundancy of the genetic code. Because of the redundancy of the genetic code, more than one coding nucleotide triplet (codon) can be used for most of the amino acids used to make proteins. Therefore different nucleotide sequences can code for a particular amino acid. Thus, the amino acid sequences of the *B. thuringiensis* δ -endotoxins and peptides, and the plastid targeting peptides and the polynucleotides which code for them, can be prepared by equivalent nucleotide sequences encoding the same amino acid sequence of the protein or peptide.

Site-specific mutagenesis is a technique useful in the preparation of individual peptides, or biologically functional equivalent proteins or peptides, through specific mutagenesis of the underlying DNA. The technique further provides a ready ability to prepare and test sequence variants, for example, incorporating one or more of the foregoing considerations, by introducing one or more nucleotide sequence changes into the DNA.

In general, the technique of site-specific mutagenesis is well known in the art, as exemplified by various publications. As will be appreciated, the technique typically employs a

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phage vector which exists in both a single stranded and double stranded form. Typical vectors useful in site-directed mutagenesis include vectors such as the M13 phage or plasmids containing an M13 origin of replication. These phage are readily commercially available and their use is generally well known to those skilled in the art.

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Modification and changes may be made in the structure of the peptides of the present invention and DNA segments which encode them and still obtain a functional molecule that encodes a protein or peptide with desirable characteristics. The biologically functional equivalent peptides, polypeptides, and proteins contemplated herein should possess about 80% or greater sequence similarity, preferably about 85% or greater sequence similarity, and most preferably about 90% or greater sequence similarity, to the sequence of, or corresponding moiety within, the fundamental Cry3B amino acid sequence.

The following is a discussion based upon changing the amino acids of a protein to create an equivalent, or even an improved, second-generation molecule. In particular embodiments of the invention, mutated crystal proteins are contemplated to be useful for increasing the insecticidal activity of the protein, and consequently increasing the insecticidal activity and/or expression of the recombinant transgene in a plant cell. The amino acid changes may be achieved by changing the codons of the DNA sequence, according to the codons given in readily available amino acid codon tables.

For example, certain amino acids may be substituted for other amino acids in a protein structure without appreciable loss of interactive binding capacity with structures such as, for example, antigen-binding regions of antibodies or binding sites on substrate molecules. Since it is the interactive capacity and nature of a protein that defines that protein's biological functional activity, certain amino acid sequence substitutions can be made in a protein sequence, and, of course, its underlying DNA coding sequence, and nevertheless obtain a protein with like properties. It is thus contemplated by the inventors that various changes may be made in the peptide sequences of the disclosed compositions, or corresponding DNA sequences which encode said peptides without appreciable loss of their biological utility or activity.

In making such changes, the hydropathic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydropathic amino acid index in conferring interactive biologic function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982, incorporate herein by reference). It is accepted that the relative hydropathic character of the amino acid contributes to

the secondary structure of the resultant protein, which in turn defines the interaction of the protein with other molecules, for example, enzymes, substrates, receptors, DNA, antibodies, antigens, and the like.

It is known in the art that certain amino acids may be substituted by other amino acids having a similar hydropathic index or score and still result in a protein with similar biological activity, *i.e.* still obtain a biological functionally equivalent protein. It is also understood in the art that the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophilicity. U. S. Patent 4,554,101 states that the greatest local average hydrophilicity of a protein, as governed by the hydrophilicity of its adjacent amino acids, correlates with a biological property of the protein. It is understood that an amino acid can be substituted for another having a similar hydrophilicity value and still obtain a biologically equivalent, and in particular, an immunologically equivalent protein.

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As outlined above, amino acid substitutions are generally therefore based on the relative similarity of the amino acid side-chain substituents, for example, their hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, charge, size, and the like. Exemplary substitutions which take various of the foregoing characteristics into consideration are well known to those of skill in the art and include: arginine and lysine; glutamate and aspartate; serine and threonine; glutamine and asparagine; and valine, leucine and isoleucine.

Polynucleotides encoding δ-endotoxins derived from *B. thuringiensis* are known by those skilled in the art, to be poorly expressed when incorporated into the nuclear DNA of transgenic plants (reviewed by Diehn *et al.*, 1996). Preferably, a nucleotide sequence encoding the δ-endotoxin of interest is designed essentially as described in U. S. Patent 5,500,365 and 5,689,052. Examples of nucleotide sequences useful for expression include but are not limited to, *cry*3B (SEQID NO:5), *cry*3Bb1 (SEQID NO:1), *cry*3Bb2 (SEQID NO:3), *v*11231 (SEQID NO:7), 11231mv1 (SEQID NO:9), and 11231mv2 (SEQID NO:11).

Peptides, polypeptides, and proteins biologically functionally equivalent to Cry3B include amino acid sequences containing conservative amino acid changes in the fundamental sequence shown in SEQID NO:2, SEQID NO:4, SEQID NO:8., SEQID NO:10, and SEQID NO:12 (Cry3Bb1, Cry3Bb2, v11231, 11231mv1, 11231mv2, Cry3Bb.11231, or Cry3Bb.11098, etc). In such amino acid sequences, one or more amino acids in the fundamental sequence is

(are) substituted with another amino acid(s), the charge and polarity of which is similar to that of the native amino acid, *i.e.* a conservative amino acid substitution, resulting in a silent change.

Substitutes for an amino acid within the fundamental polypeptide sequence can be selected from other members of the class to which the naturally occurring amino acid belongs. Amino acids can be divided into the following four groups: (1) acidic amino acids; (2) basic amino acids; (3) neutral polar amino acids; and (4) neutral non-polar amino acids. Representative amino acids within these various groups include, but are not limited to: (1) acidic (negatively charged) amino acids such as aspartic acid and glutamic acid; (2) basic (positively charged) amino acids such as arginine, histidine, and lysine; (3) neutral polar amino acids such as glycine, serine, threonine, cyteine, cystine, tyrosine, asparagine, and glutamine; (4) neutral nonpolar (hydrophobic) amino acids such as alanine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, and methionine.

Conservative amino acid changes within the fundamental polypeptide sequence can be made by substituting one amino acid within one of these groups with another amino acid within the same group. Biologically functional equivalents of Cry3B can have 10 or fewer conservative amino acid changes, more preferably seven or fewer conservative amino acid changes, and most preferably five or fewer conservative amino acid changes. The encoding nucleotide sequence (gene, plasmid DNA, cDNA, non-naturally occurring, or synthetic DNA) will thus have corresponding base substitutions, permitting it to encode biologically functional equivalent forms of Cry3B.

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The present invention provides methods and compositions for expressing Coleopteran inhibitory Cry3B B. thuringiensis δ -endotoxins or amino acid sequence variants thereof at unexpectedly high levels in transgenic plants. The disclosed methods and compositions may exploit any of the DNA constructs disclosed as well as any of the transformation vectors disclosed herein. The contemplated methods and compositions enable Cry3Bb δ -endotoxins or amino acid sequence variants thereof to be expressed in plants without negatively affecting the recovery of agronomic qualities of transgenic plants. The inventions described herein also enables expression of Cry3B δ -endotoxins and variants at levels up to 500 times higher than that achieved by previous methods and compositions.

The methods described here thus enables plants expressing Cry3B or variants to be used as either an alternative or supplement to plants expressing other Cry proteins such as a Cry3B variant, a Cry3A or Cry3D or variant, CryET33 and CryET34 or variants thereof, a CryET70 or variant, a

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CryET29 or variant, a Cry6A or Cry6B or variant, a Cry8B or variant, insecticidal acyl lipid hydrolases, combinations of amino acid oxidases and tedanalactam synthases, and other insecticidal proteins such as VIP1 and VIP3 and various combinations isolated from *Heterorhabdus, Photorhabdus, and Xenorhabdus* species for both control and resistance management of key insect pests, including *Ostrina sp, Diatraea sp,, Diabrotica, Helicoverpa sp, Spodoptera sp* in *Zea mays*; *Heliothis virescens*, *Helicoverpa sp, Pectinophora sp*. in *Gossypium hirsutum*; and *Anticarsia sp, Pseudoplusia sp, Epinotia sp* in *Glycine max*. It is also contemplated that the methods described may be used to dramatically increase expression of *B. thuringiensis* δ-endotoxins including and related to Cry3, thus increasing its effectiveness against target pests and decreasing the likelihood of evolved resistance to these proteins. In one embodiment of the present invention, a Cry3 δ-endotoxin is expressed. Target pests of this protein and their common hosts are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1

Target Pests Affected by Coleopteran Active (Inhibitory) Cry3B δ-Endotoxin and Common

Plant Hosts of Those Pests

Pests	Hosts
Leptinotarsa decemlineata	Potato
(Colorado Potato Beetle)	
Diabrotica barberi	Corn
(Northern Corn Rootworm)	
Diabrotica undecimpunctata	Corn
(Southern Corn Rootworm)	
Diabrotica virgifera	Corn
(Western Corn Rootworm)	
Anthonomis grandis	Cotton
(Boll Weevil)	
Triboleum castaneum	Wheat
(Red Flour Beetle)	
Popilla japonica	Wheat
(Japanese Flour Beetle)	

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Antibodies were required for studies comparing expression of various Cry3 coding sequences, so polyclonal serum was generated as follows. Cry3 Bt crystals were collected from a sporulated fermentation of *Bacillus thuringiensis* recombinant strain 11037 expressing native Cry3Bb. Crystals were solubilized in 100 mM sodium carbonate buffer, pH10.5, to give a concentration of 2.7 mg protein per mL as measured by a colorimetric bicinchoninic acid assay (Smith et al, 1985). A sample was diluted to a concentration of 0.4 mg/mL and mixed with an equal volume of Freund's complete adjuvant. A 1 milliliter inoculum of this mixture was used for the first intradermal injection into a rabbit. A first bleed

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was collected two weeks later. Subsequent injections of Cry3Bb protein designed to boost the immune titer were prepared by mixing equal volumes of 0.2 mg/mL protein with equal volumes of Freund's incomplete adjuvant. 1 milliliter injections were administered at four week intervals, and additional bleeds were obtained every two weeks. Immune serum adequate for analytical purposes was prepared from rabbit #783 after purification over a Protein A Sepharose CL-4B affinity chromatography according to the manufacturers' instructions (Sigma Chemical Co, St. Louis, Missouri) and concentrated to 1 milligram of IgG protein per milliliter and stored in the dark at 4°C. A sample of this antiserum was conjugated to alkaline phosphatase enzyme for subsequent use in quantitative ELISA assays.

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Leaf and root samples were collected from plants expressing Cry3Bb variant proteins 11231, 11084, 11098, and 11247. Extracts of plant samples were prepared as follows. Plant tissue, root or leaf parts, was harvested and weighed on a gram scale. Leaf tissue was mixed with 20 parts TBA buffer, weight to volume. Root tissue was mixed with 10 parts TBA buffer, weight to volume. Tissues were ground into an emulsion using a WheatonTM overhead grinder and stored on ice or at -20°C. 250 microliters of rabbit anti-Cry3Bb antiserum diluted 1:1000 in carbonate coating buffer, pH9.6, was distributed onto each well of a 96-well microtiter plate and incubated overnight at 4°C. The plate was then washed with PBST (3 x 5 min). Tissue extract samples were loaded in duplicate at 20 microliters per well and at varying dilutions in order to obtain a value within a standard curve established using Cry3Bb variant 11231. Plates were incubated overnight at 4°C, then washed with PBST three times, five minutes each time. 50 microliters of the rabbit anti-Cry3B alkaline phosphatase conjugated polyclonal antibody was added to each well, followed by the addition of 180 uL of PBST containing 1% PVP-40 (Sigma). After overnight incubation, plates were washed with PBST (3 X 5 min) and developed with alkaline phosphatase color development solution consisting of 20 mg para-nitrophenyl phosphate in 25 mL diethanolamine, pH9.8, 200 uL/well). Plates were read at λ405 after 15-20 minutes, using a quadratic curve fit to a protein standard curve where the optical density of the highest standard was approximately 1.00.

5.0 EXAMPLES

The following examples are included to demonstrate preferred embodiments of the invention. It should be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the techniques disclosed in the examples which follow represent techniques discovered by the inventor to function well in the practice of the invention, and thus can be considered to constitute preferred modes for its practice. However, those of skill in the art should, in light of the present disclosure, appreciate

that many changes can be made in the specific embodiments which are disclosed and still obtain a like or similar result without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

5.1 Example 1 - Isolation, Characterization, and Identification of Cry3 proteins and genes, and Construction of Amino Acid Sequence Variants Thereof

Means for identifying and characterizing Coleopteran toxic gene products are well documented in the art, and methods for isolating, characterizing and identifying the genes which encode such gene products are also well known in the art. In addition, the means for producing amino acid sequence variants of such Coleopteran toxic δ-endotoxin proteins are also well known. In particular, Van Rie et al. (US Patent No. 5,659,123; 1997) identify Cry3A and D toxins which exhibit Coleopteran inhibitory properties, and also set forth a method for identifying mutants which can be constructed which have reduced insecticidal activity with reference to the wild type protein. Van Rie et al. describe how those particular mutants can be further manipulated to identify amino acid sequence variant toxins which exhibit increased insecticidal activity with reference to the wild type protein. English et al. (WO 99/31248) describe other methods and compositions, in particular for Cry3B, which enable the identification of Cry3 encoding genes and gene products and the methods which can be used to construct and identify amino acid sequence variants exhibiting improved insecticidal activity with reference to that of the wild type Cry3 protein. Several coding sequences used herein were derived from those described in English et al. and the proteins produced from these coding sequences represent in particular the variants 11231 or 11098 as described therein.

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Example 2. Construction of monocot plant expression vectors for the Cry3Bb variants Design of cry3Bb variant genes for plant expression

For efficient expression of the Cry3Bb variants in transgenic plants, the gene encoding the variants must have a suitable sequence composition (Diehn et al, 1996). One example of such a sequence is shown for the v11231 gene (SEQID NO:7) which encodes the 11231 variant of the Cry3Bb protein (SEQID NO: 8) exhibiting *Diabroticus* activity. This gene was derived via mutagenesis (Kunkel, 1985) of a Cry3Bb synthetic gene (SEQID NO:5) encoding a protein

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essentially homologous to the protein encoded by the native Cry3Bb gene (Gen Bank Accession Number m89794; SEQID NO:1). The following oligonucleotides were used in the mutagenesis of the original Cry3Bb synthetic gene (SEQID NO:5) to create the v11231 gene (SEQID NO:7)

5 Oligo #1: TAGGCCTCCATCCATGGCAAACCCTAACAATC (SEQID NO: 40)

Oligo #2: TCCCATCTTCCTACTTACGACCCTGCAGAAATACGGTCCAAC_(SEQID NO:41)

Oligo #3: GACCTCACCTACCAAACATTCGATCTTG (SEQID NO: 42)

Oligo #4: CGAGTTCTACCGTAGGCAGCTCAAG (SEQID NO:43)

10 Construction of cry3Bb monocot plant expression vector

To place the Cry3Bb variant gene v11231 in a vector suitable for expression in monocotyledonous plants (i.e. under control of the enhanced Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S promoter and linker to the hsp70 intron followed by a nopaline synthase polyadenylation site as in Brown and Santino US patent number 5,424,412; 1995), the vector pMON19469 was digested with NcoI and EcoRI. The larger vector band of approximately 4.6 kb was isolated after electrophoresis of the digestion products through an agarose gel, purified, and ligated with T4 DNA ligase to the NcoI-EcoRI fragment of approximately 2 kb containing the v11231 gene (SEQID NO:7). The ligation mix was transformed into a useful laboratory strain of *E. coli*, and carbenicillin resistant colonies were recovered. Plasmid DNA was recovered by miniprep DNA procedures from subsequent overnight cultures of carbenicillin resistant colonies selected into broth containing antibiotics. This DNA was subjected to restriction endonuclease analysis with enzymes such as NcoI and EcoRI, NotI, and PstI to identify clones containing the v11231 coding sequence fused to the hsp70 intron under control of the enhanced CaMV35S promoter. Clones identified as such were designated as pMON33708.

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To place the v11231 gene in a vector suitable for recovery of stably transformed and insect resistant plants, the 3.75 kb NotI restriction fragment from pMON33708 containing the lysine oxidase coding sequence fused to the hsp70 intron under control of the enhanced CaMV35S promoter was isolated and purified after extraction from an agarose gel. This fragment was ligated with pMON30460 treated with NotI and calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase. pMON30460 contains the neomycin phosphotransferase coding sequence under

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control of the CaMV35S promoter. Kanamycin resistant colonies were obtained by transformation of this ligation mix into E. coli and colonies containing the appropriate band were identified by restriction endonuclease digestion and designated as pMON33710. Restriction enzymes such as NotI, EcoRV, HindIII, NcoI, EcoRI, and BglII were used to identify the appropriate clones containing the NotI fragment of pMON33708 in the NotI site of pMON30460 (i.e. pMON33710) in the orientation such that both genes are in tandem (i.e. the 3' end of the v11231expression cassette is linked to the 5' end of the nptII expression cassette). Expression of the v11231 protein by pMON33710 in corn protoplasts was confirmed by electroporation of pMON33710 covalently closed circular plasmid DNA into protoplasts followed by protein blot and ELISA analysis. This vector can be introduced into the genomic DNA of corn embryos by particle gun bombardment followed by paromomycin selection to obtain corn plants expressing the v11231 gene essentially as described in Brown and Santino US patent number 5,424,412. In this example, the vector was introduced into immature embryo scutella (IES) of maize via cobombardment along with with a plasmid conferring hygromycin resistance, followed by hygromycin selection, and regeneration. Transgenic corn lines expressing the v11231 protein were identified by ELISA analysis scoring for both the presence and amount of v11231 protein present in each extract sample. Plants were selfed and allowed to go to seed. Progeny seed were cured and planted to produce seedling corn plants which were subsequently tested for protection from Diabroticus feeding.

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In plant performance of Cry3Bb variant 11231

Transformed corn plants expressing Cry3Bb variant 11231 protein were challenged with western corn rootworm (WCR) larvae in both a seedling and 10 inch pot assay. The transformed genotype was A634, where the progeny of the R0 cross by A634 was evaluated. Observations included effect on larval development (weight), root damage rating (RDR), and protein expression. The transformation vector containing the Cry3Bb variant gene was pMON33710. Treatments included the positive and negative iso-populations for each event and an A634 check.

The seedling assay consisted of the following steps; i. single seeds were placed in 1 oz cups containing potting soil; ii. at spiking, each seedling was infested with 4 neonate larvae, and iii. after infestation, seedlings were incubated for 7 days at 25°C, 50% RH, and 14:10 (L:D) photo

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period. Adequate moisture was added to the potting soil during the incubation period to maintain seedling vigor.

The 10 inch pot assay consisted of the following steps; i. single seeds were placed in 10 inch pots containing potting soil; ii. at 14 days post planting, each pot was infested with 800 eggs which have been pre-incubated such that hatch would occur 5-7 days post infestation; and iii. after infestation, plants were incubated for 4 weeks under the same environmental conditions as the seedling assay. Pots were both sub & top irrigated daily.

For the seedling assay, on day 7 plants were given a root damage rating (Table 1.) and surviving larvae were weighed. Also at this time, Cry3Bb protein concentrations in the roots were determined by ELISA.

Table 1. Root Damage Rating Scale for seedling assay.

RDR 0 = no visible feeding

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1 = very light feeding

2 =light feeding

3 = moderate feeding

4 = heavy feeding

5 = very heavy feeding

Results of the seedling assay are shown in Table 2. Plants expressing Cry3Bb protein were completely protected by WCR feeding, where surviving larvae within this treatment had not grown. Mean larval weights ranged from 2.03 - 2.73 mg for the non-expressing treatments, where the surviving larval average weight was 0.11 mg on the expressing Cry3Bb treatment. Root damage ratings were 3.86 and 0.33 for the non-expressing and expressing iso-populations, respectively. Larval survival ranged from 75 - 85 % for the negative and check treatments, where only 25 % of the larvae survived on the Cry3Bb treatment.

Table 2. Effect of Cry3Bb expressing plants on WCR larvae in a seedling assay.

	Plants			Larvae	2			
5	Event	Treatment	N	Root (ppm)	RDR <u>+</u> SD	N	% Surv	Mean±SD Wt.(mg)
	16	Negative	7	0.0	3.86 <u>+</u> 0.65	21	75	2.73 <u>+</u> 1.67
	16	Positive	3	29.01	0.33 <u>+</u> 0.45	3	25	0.11 <u>+</u> 0.07
	A634	Check	4	0.0		13	81	2.03 <u>+</u> 0.83

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For the 10 inch pot assay, at 4 weeks post infestation plant height was recorded and a root damage rating was given (Iowa 1-6 scale; Hills, T.M. and D.C. Peters. 1971; A method of evaluating post planting insecticide treatments for control of western corn rootworm larvae. Journal of Economic Entomology 64: 764-765.).

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Results of the 10 inch pot assay are shown in Table 3. Plants expressing Cry3Bb protein had significantly less feeding damage and were taller than the non-expressing plants. Event 16, the higher of the two expressing events provided nearly complete control. The negative treatments had very high root damage ratings indicating very high insect pressure. The positive mean root damage ratings were 3.4 and 2.2 for event 6 & 16, respectively. Mean RDR for the negative treatment was 5.0 & 5.6.

Table 3. Effect of Cry3Bb expressed in corn in controlling WCR larval feeding in a 10 inch pot assay.

25				Root		Plant
	Event	Treatment	N	(ppm)	RDR±SD	Height (cm)
-	6	Negative	7	0.0	5.0 <u>+</u> 1.41	49.7 <u>+</u> 18.72
	6	Positive	5	7.0	3.4 <u>+</u> 1.14	73.9 <u>+</u> 8.67
30	16	Negative	5	0.0	5.6 <u>+</u> 0.89	61.2 <u>+</u> 7.75
_	16	Positive	5	55.0	2.2 <u>+</u> 0.84	83.8 <u>+</u> 27.15

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In summary, corn plants expressing Cry3Bb protein have a significant biological effect on WCR larval development as seen in the seedling assay. When challenged with very high infestation levels, plants expressing the Cry3Bb protein were protected from WCR larval feeding damage as illustrated in the 10 inch pot assay.

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Example 3 - Increased Expression of a Cry3Bb protein in transgenic maize

Expression of a Cry3Bb protein was compared in corn plants transformed with standard or preferredCry3Bb expression vectors. Plants transformed with the improved vectors consistently demonstrated significantly higher levels of expression of Cry3Bb when compared to plants transformed with the standard Cry3Bb vectors. A standard Cry3Bb plant expression vector pMON33710 contains an expression cassette composed of an enhanced CaMV35S promoter sequence (P-CaMV.35S, SEQID NO:29), a Zea mays Hsp70 intron sequence (I-Zm.Hsp70, SEQID NO:33), a non-naturally occurring sequence encoding Cry3Bb variant protein v11231 (Bt.cry3Bb.v11231, SEQID NO: 7), and a nopaline synthase transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence (T-AGRtu.nos, SEQID NO:34). Another standard Cry3Bb plant expression vector pMON33709 contains an expression cassette composed of an enhanced CaMV35S promoter sequence (P-CaMV.35S, SEQID NO:29), a Zea mays Hsp70 intron sequence (I-Zm.Hsp70, SEQID NO:33), a Zea mays CTP encoding sequence (TS-Zm.rbc1, SEQID NO:25), a non-naturally occurring sequence encoding Cry3Bb variant protein v11231 (Bt.cry3Bb.v11231, SEQID NO:7), and a nopaline synthase transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence (T-AGRtu.nos, SEQID NO:34). The plant expression vector pMON25097 is improved compared to pMON33710 as judged by Cry3Bb expression levels in planta, and contains an expression cassette comprising a non-naturally occurring CaMV35S AS4 promoter sequence (P-CaMV.AS4, SEQID NO:30), a wheat chlorophyll A/B binding protein untranslated leader sequence (L-Ta.hcb1, SEQID NO:31), a rice actin intron sequence (I-Os.Act1, SEQID NO:32), and a non-naturally occurring sequence encoding Cry3Bb variant protein 11231mv1 (11098) (Bt.cry3Bb.11231mv1, SEQID NO:9) linked to a wheat heat shock Hsp17 transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence (T-Ta.Hsp17, SEQID NO:35). Another preferred vector is pMON25096, which contains an expression cassette (SEQID

NO:17) comprising a non-naturally occurring CaMV35S AS4 promoter sequence (P-

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CaMV.AS4, SEQID NO:30), a wheat chlorophyll A/B binding protein untranslated leader sequence (L-Ta.hcb1, SEQID NO:31), a rice actin intron sequence (I-Os.Act1, SEQID NO:32), a Zea mays CTP encoding sequence (TS-Zm.rbc1, SEQID NO:25), and a non-naturally occurring sequence encoding Cry3Bb variant protein 11231mv1 (Bt.cry3Bb.11231mv1, SEQID NO:9) linked to a wheat heat shock Hsp17 transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence (T-Ta.Hsp17, SEQID NO:35). All vectors contain an identical cassette linked to the Cry3Bb expression cassette which confers paromomycin resistance to transformed plant tissue. This resistance cassette consists of an enhanced CaMV35S promoter sequence, and a neomycin

polyadenylation sequence. A summary of the standard and improved vectors is presented in Table 4. Transgenic corn plants resistant to paromomycin were derived essentially as described in U. S. Patent 5,424,412 (1995).

phosphotransferase coding sequence linked to a nopaline synthase transcription termination and

Table 4
Plant Expression Vector Summary

Vector	Expression Cassette	Selection
		Cassette
pMON33709	35S/HSP70/ZmRBC/v11231/NOS	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON33710	e35S/HSP70/11231v/nos	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON33722	AS4/TaCAB/OsAct1/ZmRBC/v11231/t ahsp17	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON33723	AS4//TaCAB/OsAct1/ v11231/tahsp17	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON25096	AS4/TaCAB/OsAct1/ZmRBC/11231mv1 /tahsp17	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON25097	AS4/TaCAB/OsAct1/11231mv1/tahsp	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON33741	AS4/TaCAB/OsAct1/11231mv2/tahsp	e35S/nptII /nos
pMON33748	e35S/TaCAB/OsAct1/11231mv2/tahs	e35S/nptII /nos

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Maize leaf protoplasts were electroporated with standard vectors (pMON33709 or pMON33710) or improved vectors (pMON33722, pMON33723, pMON25096, pMON25097, pMON33741) as described (Sheen, Plant Cell 2:1027-1038, 1990) and transient expression of Cry3Bb variant proteins was compared by ELISA and Western Blot analysis methods. The ELISA used a rabbit anti-Cry3B chromatography purified IgG capture antibody raised against Cry3B 11231, a sample of that antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase as the secondary detecting antibody, and a purified Cry3Bb native protein as a standard. Comparison of the ratio of Cry3Bb to neomycin phosphotransferase (Npt II) expression levels by ELISA indicated that approximately two-fold increases in the normalized expression levels of Cry3Bb variant protein 11231 were obtained with improved vectors pMON33723 and pMON33722 relative to the standard vectors pMON33710 and pMON33709, respectively.(Expt. 1, Table 5)., Differences in Cry3Bb expression are directly ascribed to the improved expression cassette in the improved vectors rather than to differences in protoplast electroporation efficiency since expression of Cry3Bb protein is normalized to Npt II produced by the identical linked nptII gene present in all vectors. The most preferred improved vectors such as pMON25096, pMON25097, and pMON33741 expressed approximately 10-fold higher normalized levels of Cry3Bb and variant Cry3Bb protein than the preferred improved vectors such as pMON33722 or pMON33723 (Table 5, Expt. 2, 3). Finally, the equally preferred pMON33741 and pMON25097 vectors yielded roughly equivalent normalized Cry3Bb expression (Table 5, Expt. 4)

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Table 5 Transient Cry3Bb and Cry3BbVariant Expression in Corn Leaf Protoplasts (normalized to NptII expression)

Expt. 1	pMON33710 5.79	pMON33723 12.3
	pMON33709 2.7	pMON33722 7.7
Expt. 2	pMON33722 1.9	pMON25096 26.2
	pMON33723 3.7	pMON25097 37.5
Expt.3	pMON33723 30	pMON33741 319
Expt. 4	pMON33741 20	pMON25097 25

Since the improved expression cassette in pMON25097 encodes the Cry3Bb 11231mv1 (11098) variant toxin, and the standard cassette in pMON33710 encodes the Cry3Bb v11231 variant which differ by a single amino acid, the intrinsic immunoreactivity of the two proteins in the ELISA assay was compared. Subsequent ELISA experiments with Cry3Bb v11231 and 11231mv1 (11098) variant proteins produced in and purified from B. thuringiensis indicate that the two proteins have similar levels of immunoreactivity. Consequently, the observed increase in levels of Cry3Bb 11231mv1 (11098) protein produced from the expression cassette in pMON25097 is due to increased expression levels rather than a difference in immunoreactivity. Protein blot analyses confirm that the increased level of cross reactive material produced in maize protoplasts from the improved Cry3Bb expression cassette in pMON25097 were due to increased accumulation of an approximately 60,000 Mr protein immunoreactive with Cry3B antiserum that also co-migrates with Cry3Bb variant 11231 protein produced in a recombinant cry-B. thuringiensis strain from pEG7174. Equally preferred and improved Cry3Bb variant protein expression cassettes in pMON33741 and pMON33748 that encode Cry3Bb.11231 also

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exhibit increased expression levels of Cry3Bb relative to expression observed from the standard cassette in pMON33710. These results confirm that expression differences are due to the improved compositions disclosed herein rather than to differences in the intrinsic immunoreactivity of the different variants.

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Root tissue from transgenic plants in the R₀ stage independently obtained after transformation with an improved vectors (pMON33723, 25097, ,) or with a standard vector (pMON 33710) was subjected to quantitative analysis of Cry3Bb protein levels by a quantitative ELISA assay. Comparison of Cry3Bb or Cry3Bb protein variant expression levels in improved and standard vector transformed corn plants show that Cry3Bb.11231 variant expression does not exceed 50 ppm in the standard pMON33710 transgenics while Cry3Bb.11098 (11231mv1) expression in the improved pMON25097 transgenics is frequently higher than 50 ppm (Table 6). Protein blot analyses confirm that the increased level of cross reactive material produced by pMON25097 (improved) were due to increased accumulation of an approximately Mr 60,000 protein that migrates with Cry3Bb1 standard from B. thuringiensis. Other improved Cry3Bb protein variant expression cassettes found in pMON33741 and 33748 also consistently yield select independently transformed events (ITE's) with Cry3Bb protein variant levels greater than 100 PPM whereas the standard vectors have never given rise to ITE's with greater than 50 PPM of Cry3Bb protein variant (Table 7). High level expression is evident in both the H99 and A634 maize genotypes, indicating that the compositions disclosed herein have broad utility to many varieties of commercially cultivated maize. Such select high expressing Cry3 protein variant lines obtained with the vectors described herein are expected to be especially advantageous in conferring high levels of protection to insect feeding damage and in reducing the incidence of insect resistance to Cry3 insecticidal proteins.

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 $Table\ 6$ $Comparison\ of\ Cry3Bb\ Expression\ in\ R_0\ Corn\ Transformed\ with\ Standard\ and\ Improved\ Cry3Bb\ Protein$ $Variant\ Expression\ Cassettes$

	Cry3B Expression Level (ppm)						
Vector (genotype)	Total Events	5-10 ppm	10-50 ppm	50-100 ppm	100-200 ppm	>200 ppm	
L25097 A634 H99	45 589	3 32	7 36	5	3	3 5	
L33710 A634 H99	22 336	2 13	2 15				
L33723 A634 H99	0 67	6	9				

 $\label{thm:condition} Table\ 7$ Cry3Bb Expression in R0 Corn Transformed with Improved Cry3Bb Protein Variant Expression Cassettes

	Cry3B Expression Level (ppm)						
Vector	Total Events	5-10 ppm	10-50 ppm	50-100 ppm	100-200 ppm	>200 ppm	
L25097 A634	112	7	4	5	1	4	
H99	45	1	4	2			
L33741 H99	108	11	5	2		4	
L33748				_			
A634 H99	82 209	1 23	11 13	2 3	2 3	1 11	

Progeny derived from corn plants transformed with both the standard (pMON33709 and pMON33710) and preferred (pMON25096, 25097, 33722, 33723, 33726, 33741, and 33748)

cassettes expressing 10 ppm or more of Cry3Bb protein were further tested for resistance to Corn Rootworm (CRW) feeding damage in greenhouse or growth chamber based bioassays as previously described (English et al., WO 99/31248). Corn Rootworm resistant transgenic corn plants were obtained from essentially all of the preferred vectors (Table 8). For example, the improved pMON25096 vector was used to generate 89 independently transformed events (ITE's), 14 independent pMON25096 F_1 progeny lines expressing 10 ppm or more of Cry3Bband 7 F_1 progeny lines displaying significant levels of CRW resistance (an RDR rating \geq 3.5 on a rating scale of 0-6). In contrast, not a single event with a RDR rating \leq 3.5 was obtained from 12 of the standard pMON33710 cassette F_1 progeny lines expressing 10 PPM or more of Cry3Bb protein variant. Failure to obtain CRW resistant lines with either of the standard vectors (pMON33709 or pMON33710) was not due to insufficient numbers of ITE's as over 300 ITE's from each of these two vectors were generated and screened for CRW resistant F_1 progeny. Far fewer ITE's were generated with preferred vectors such as pMON33722, pMON33723, and pMON25096, yet all ultimately gave rise to CRW resistant F_1 progeny lines.

Table 8

Numbers of CRW resistant independent transformation events obtained with the standard and improved Cry3Bb Protein Variant expression cassettes

Expressi	Genotyp	Total	Number	Number
on cassette	e	Number of ITE's	of ITE's Tested	and Percent of
				ITEs with
				RDR≤3.5
L33709	H99	318	11	0
L33710	H99	336	10	0
			_	
	A634	22	2	0
1.25006	1100			2 (500()
L25096	H99	52	4	2 (50%)
	A634	37	10	5 (50%)
	A054	37	10	3 (3070)
	<u> </u>	····		

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L25097	Н99	634	17	10
	A634	157	18	(59%)
				8 (44%)
L33722	H99	107	10	6 (60%)
L33723	H99	93	7	3 (43%)
L33726	H99	65	6	5 (83%)
	A634	10	0	
L33727	H99	86	0	4.44
	A634	. 1	1	0
33736A BI	H99	3	3	2 (67%)
L33741	H99	108	1	0
L33748	H99	223	6	3 (50%)
	A634	82	7	4 (57%)
L33749 ABI	Н99	73	14	(93%)

In examples provided herein, experimental evidence that substantially equivalent compositions based on the improvements disclosed herein yield equivalent improvements in performance relative to the previously disclosed standards. More specifically, we demonstrate that improved compositions encoding both the Cry3Bb. 11098 and Cry3Bb. 11231 variants both yield equivalently improved performance relative to the previously disclosed standard

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compositions encoding Cry3Bb.11231. It thus follows that use of other Cry3B variants with specific biological activities that are greater than or equal to Cry3Bb.11098 or Cry3Bb.11231 is contemplated by and within the scope of this invention. For example, improved vector compositions encoding Cry3Bb variants include 11231, 11084, 11098, 11247, and others as set forth in English et al., US Application Serial No.'s 08/993,170, 08/993,722, 08/993,755, and 08/996,441, all filed Dec. 18, 1997 can be derived from pMON25095 using standard mutagenesis procedures in a manner essentially equivalent to the construction of pMON33740.

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Example 4- Preferred Expression Cassettes Confer Resistance to CRW damage in Field Tests

Corn plants genetically modified to express Cry3Bb protein variants derived from the preferred vectors pMON33722, pMON33723, pMON25096, and pMON25097 were evaluated in the field for control of western corn rootworm, *Diabrotica vergifera vergifera* LeConte (WCR). None of the corn plants transformed with the standard vectors were advanced to field testing as none displayed adequate Corn Rootworm control in greenhouse tests (Example 3. Table 8). The efficacy trials were held at a Monsanto research farm in Jerseyville, Illinois and at the Northern Grain Insects Research Laboratory, USDA ARS research station in Brookings, South Dakota. These trials serve to evaluate performance of the preferred cassettes in the field under heavy insect pressure and to compare their performance to the current commercially available insecticides.

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Seventeen independent transformation events (ITE) were selected for field evaluation based on greenhouse performance. The amount of seed available for the field evaluation varied for each ITE. Of these 17 events, only seven were planted at the Brookings research station. The field design for the Brookings' location was a randomized complete block (RCB) with 2 replications, where each plot was a single row containing a maximum of 30 plants. All 17 ITE's were planted at the Jerseyville location, where the design was a RCB with a maximum of 4 replications, 1 row plots each, where the number of replications depended on the seed available from each ITE. Because of this, the number of replications at Jerseyville ranged from two to four. Additional

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treatments included an untreated check (nontransgenic corn) and commercial insecticides, including Counter®, Lorsban®, and Force®. The insecticide treatments were only at the Jerseyville location. The insecticides were applied as an eight inch band at planting using the recommended rates.

Planting dates where May 28th and June 3rd for the Jerseyville & Brookings, respectively. The study was performed as follows; plots were infested with CRW eggs at planting with 1,600 eggs per foot of row, approximately 800 eggs per plant. At the V1 - V2 plant growth stage, plants were analyzed for presence of the Cry3Bb protein variant expression using an ELISA. Plants negative for the gene were culled from the plot.

At the end of the CRW larval feeding stage, when maximum damage would have occurred, all remaining plants in each plot were evaluated for root feeding injury using a 1 - 6 root damage rating (RDR) scale described by Hills and Peters (1971). The RDR scale is as follows;

Root Damage Rating:

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- 1. No feeding scars
- 2. Visible feeding scars, but no roots pruned to within 4 cm of the stalk
- 3. One or more nodal roots pruned to within 4 cm of the stalk, but less than one nodes worth of roots
- 4. One node worth of pruned roots
- 5. Two nodes worth of pruned roots
- 6. Three or more nodes worth of pruned roots

On July 25th and August 3rd the field trials were evaluated at Jerseyville and Brookings, respectively. The average RDR's for all treatments are illustrated in Table 9. Of the seventeen ITE's evaluated, 16 ITE's controlled CRW feeding, ≤ 3.0 RDR. Two of the three chemical standards had a RDR less than 3.0. Force® had a root damage rating of 3.2. Except for one ITE, WCR20, all treatments were significantly better than the checks (p < .01) but did not differ significantly from each other. Figure one illustrates the difference in larval feeding damage between a transgenic CRW resistant plant and an untreated check.

Even though the ITE's did not differ significantly from the chemical standards with respect to root damage rating, the amount of feeding injury observed on roots from the insecticide treatments were greater than the roots expressing Monsanto's proprietary gene. The lack of difference between root damage rating is an artifact of the root rating scale, where this scale is based on "pruned" roots. Hills and Peters describe a pruned root as being less than 4 cm in length due to CRW feeding. Therefore, root masses without a "pruned" root but visible feeding scares are given a rating of 2. Roots outside of the zone of protection from the insecticide treatments had many more feeding scars and in most cases the root tips were destroyed as compared to the ITE's. Unlike the insecticide treatments, the transgenic plants express the CRW resistant gene throughout the entire root mass. But because the mechanism for control of the transgenic plant is orally mediated, a minimum amount of feeding is required to control any further injury by the CRW larvae. This minimal feeding requirement resulted in a RDR of 2.

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In summary, corn plants expressing Cry3Bb protein variants were fully protected from CRW larval feeding. This level of protection eliminates the need for an insecticide treatment. Insecticides, including organophosphates, carbamates and pyrethroids are incorporated into the soil on over 16 million corn acres annually to control CRW. CRW resistance technology has the potential to significantly reduce the current exposure level of these insecticides to the environment. The benefits of shifting away from soil insecticides to a transgenic approach are impressive and include a reduction in potential human health and safety risks, reduced direct impacts on nontarget organisms, reduced contamination of surface and ground water supplies, decreased pesticide container disposal problems, and general compatibility with other pest management and agronomic programs.

Table 9.Corn rootworm root feeding damage (RDR) means for corn independent transformation events containing Monsanto's proprietary CRW resistant gene.

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Treatment	Jerseyville	Brookings	Average (RDR)			
pMON 25097-1	2.3	1.9	2.1			
pMON 33722-1	2.6	2.3	2.5			
pMON 33723-1	2.6	2.9	2.8			
pMON 33723-2	2.6	2.0	2.3			
pMON33722-2	2.5	1.9	2.2			
pMON 25096-1	2.8	2.5	2.7			
pMON 25097-2	2.5	2.3	2.4			

Root Damage Rating (RDR)

pMON 25096-2	2.4	n/a	2.4
pMON 25097-3	2.6	n/a	2.6
pMON 25096-3	2.2	n/a	2.2
pMON 25097-4	2.2	n/a	2.2
pMON 25096-4	2.6	n/a	2.6
pMON 33723-3	2.5	n/a	2.5
pMON 25097-5	3.0	n/a	3.0
pMON 25097-6	4.0	n/a	4.0
pMON 25097-7	2.2	n/a	2.2
pMON 33722-3	2.6	n/a	2.6
COUNTER ®	2.4	n/a	2.4
LORSBAN ®	2.4	n/a	2.4
FORCE ®	3.2	n/a	3.2
CHECK	4.1	4.1	4.1

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Example 5 - Transformation of Tobacco Chloroplast with a cry3B gene

Recombinant plants can be produced in which only the mitochondrial or chloroplast DNA has been altered to incorporate the molecules envisioned in this application. Promoters which function in chloroplasts have been known in the art (Hanley-Bowden et al., Trends in Biochemical Sciences 12:67-70, 1987). Methods and compositions for obtaining cells containing chloroplasts into which heterologous DNA has been inserted have been described, for example by Daniell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,507; 1997) and Maliga et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,451,513; 1995). A vector can be constructed which contains an expression cassette from 10 which a Cry3B protein could be produced. A cassette could contain a chloroplast operable promoter sequence driving expression of a cry3B crystal protein gene, constructed in much the same manner as other polynucleotides herein, using thermal amplification methodologies, restriction endonuclease digestion, and ligation etc. A chloroplast expressible gene would provide a promoter and a 5' untranslated region from a heterologous gene or chloroplast gene such as psbA, which would provide for transcription and translation of a DNA sequence encoding a Cry3B protein in the chloroplast; a DNA sequence encoding Cry3B protein; and a transcriptional and translational termination region such as a 3' inverted repeat region of a chloroplast gene that could stabilize an expressed cry3B mRNA. Expression from within the chloroplast would enhance cry3B gene product accumulation. A host cell containing 20 chloroplasts or plastids can be transformed with the expression cassette and then the resulting

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cell containing the transformed chloroplasts can be grown to express the Cry3B protein. A cassette may also include an antibiotic, herbicide tolerance, or other selectable marker gene in addition to the cry3B gene. The expression cassette may be flanked by DNA sequences obtained from a chloroplast DNA which would facilitate stable integration of the expression cassette into the chloroplast genome, particularly by homologous recombination. Alternatively, the expression cassette may not integrate, but by including an origin of replication obtained from a chloroplast DNA, would be capable of providing for replication of the heterologous cry3B gene in the chloroplast. Plants can be generated from cells containing transformed chloroplasts and can then be grown to produce seeds, from which additional plants can be generated. Such transformation methods are advantageous over nuclear genome transformation, in particular where chloroplast transformation is effected by integration into the chloroplast genome, because chloroplast genes in general are maternally inherited. This provides environmentally "safer" transgenic plants, virtually eliminating the possibility of escapes into the environment. Furthermore, chloroplasts can be transformed multiple times to produce functional chloroplast genomes which express multiple desired recombinant proteins, whereas nuclear genomic transformation has been shown to be rather limited when multiple genes are desired. Segregational events are thus avoided using chloroplast or plastid transformation. Unlike plant nuclear genome expression, expression in chloroplasts or plastids can be initiated from only one promoter and continue through a polycistronic region to produce multiple peptides from a single mRNA.

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The expression cassette would be produced in much the same way that other plant transformation vectors are constructed. Plant chloroplast operable DNA sequences can be inserted into a bacterial plasmid and linked to DNA sequences expressing desired gene products, such as Cry3B proteins, so that Cry3B protein is produced within the chloroplast, obviating the requirement for nuclear gene regulation, capping, splicing, or polyadenylation of nuclear regulated genes, or chloroplast or plastid targeting sequences. An expression cassette comprising a cry3B gene, which is either synthetically constructed or a native gene derived directly from a B. thuringiensis genome or a B. thuringiensis episomal element, would be inserted into a restriction site in a vector constructed for the purpose of chloroplast or plastid transformation. The cassette would be flanked upstream by a chloroplast or plastid functional promoter and

downstream by a chloroplast or plastid functional transcription and translation termination

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sequence. The resulting cassette would be incorporated into the chloroplast or plastid genome using well known homologous recombination methods.

Alternatively, chloroplast or plastid transformation could be obtained by using an autonomously replicating plasmid or other vector capable of propagation within the chloroplast or plastid. One means of effectuating this method would be to utilize a portion of the chloroplast or plastid genome required for chloroplast or plastid replication initiation as a means for maintaining the plasmid or vector in the transformed chloroplast or plastid. A sequence enabling stable replication of a chloroplast or plastid epigenetic element would easily be identified from random cloning of a chloroplast or plastid genome into a standard bacterial vector which also contains a chloroplast or plastid selectable marker gene, followed by transformation of chloroplasts or plastids and selection for transformed cells on an appropriate selection medium. Introduction of an expression cassette as described herein into a chloroplast or plastid replicable epigenetic element would thus provide an effective means for localizing a Cry3B *B*. *thuringiensis* δ-endotoxin to the chloroplast or plastid.

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Example 6: Targeting Cry3Bb or Variant Cry3Bb Protein to Plastids

Improved expression by targeting recombinant insecticidal protein to the chloroplast may result in tissues which are light exposed and which accumulate mature chloroplasts as a result. Improving expression in leaf tissue to inhibit leaf-feeding pests susceptible to the insecticidal protein could be advantageous. To test this, two plasmids, pMON33709 and pMON33710 were constructed which were isogenic with respect to all elements with the exception of a plastid or chloroplast targeting sequence linked in frame to the insecticidal Cry3Bb improved variant in pMON33709. Ro corn plants were recovered and were shown to contain and express the transgene by ELISA. Six pMON33709 lines and sixteen pMON33710 lines were recovered which expressed the transgene in both the root and the leaves. Leaf and root tissue were recovered and analyzed for the presence and amount of Cry3Bb variant protein, measured in parts per million. The results are shown in Table 10.

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Comparison of Non-Targeted and Plastid Targeted Leaf vs Root Expression of Cry3Bb Variant v11231 in R_{o} Corn Transformation Events

R0 #	R₀ Corn Trar Event#	Construct	Tissue	ppm 11231(ug/g tissue)
R053608	2027-05-01	L33709	Leaf	14.69
R053608	2027-05-01	L33709	Root	3.97
R053621	2028-06-06	L33709	Leaf	22.65
R053621	2028-06-06	L33709	Root	0.10
R053643	2029-03-09	L33709	Leaf	1.05
R053643	2029-03-09	L33709	Root	3.83
R053675	2028-03-06	L33709	Leaf	7.13
R053675	2028-03-06	L33709	Root	2.23
R053688	2028-04-02	L33709	Leaf	56.80
R053688	2028-04-02	L33709	Root	9.83
R053690	2028-04-02	L33709	Leaf	98.69
R053690	2028-04-02	L33709	Root	6.38
R053708	2027-01-02	L33710	Leaf	12.79
R053708	2027-01-02	L33710	Root	4.94
R053781	2028-02-19	L33710	Leaf	8.47
R053781	2028-02-19	L33710	Root	4.72
R053785			Leaf	21.97
	2027-04-06		Root	7.20
R053799	t		Leaf	12.41
	2028-01-16		Root	6.19
R053800	1	1	Leaf	5.69
R053800		1	Root	3.32
	2028-01-16	i .	Leaf	16.19
	2028-01-16		Root	7.80
	2027-01-11	L33710	Leaf	6.93
	2027-01-11	L	Root	10.35
	2030-08-12	L33710	Leaf	14.32
	2030-08-12	L33710	Root	5.64
	2030-08-08		Leaf	12.70
	2030-08-08	1 .	Root	3.97
	2028-02-32		Leaf	2.33
	2028-02-32		Root	4.15
	2028-02-32		Leaf	9.39
	2028-02-32	1	Root	5.76
	2027-02-03		Leaf	226.05
	2027-02-03		Root	1.55
R053923		1	Leaf	12.16
R053923	1		Root	11.77
R053924		1	Leaf	10.74
R053924			Root	7.94
R053928		1	Leaf	14.86
R053928	1	1	Root	3.84
R053929			Leaf	15.04
R053929	2029-01-05	L33710	Root	3.49

All but one pMON33709 line (Ro53643) produced between 3 to 15 times more insecticidal protein in the leaves than in the root tissue. The one line that produced less in the leaves also produced less than 1 ppm in the root, whereas the other lines produced up to almost 100 ppm in the leaves. The amount of Cry3Bb variant protein expressed was even more variable in the non-targeted lines derived from pMON33710 transformation events which were determined to be expressing the recombinant protein in both leaf and root tissues. While most of these lines produced more protein in the leaves than in the roots, some also produced more in the roots, but the difference between the amount produced in the roots in those improved root-expressors was less substantial than in the single pMON33709 targeted event. Also, the range of expression levels was less pronounced in the non-targeted events with one exception. Surprisingly, one line (Ro53904) produced substantially more protein in the leaves than was observed in any other line, targeted or non-targeted. This line would be expected to be a candidate for a commercial line directed to protection against Coleopteran pests which feed on leaf tissues. Conversely, lines such as Ro53923 would be expected to be optimum candidates for protecting corn plants against root-feeding pests such as corn rootworms.

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The data in summary indicates that targeting the Bt Cry3B protein to the plastid or chloroplast improves the accumulation of the protein in leaf tissue but not in root tissue, and improves the overall expression of the protein in leaves in plants transformed with such constructs as compared to the levels of expression observed in root tissues in those same plants.

In view of the above, it will be seen that the several advantages of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results attained. As various changes could be made in the above methods and compositions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

In addition, all references referred to in this application are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Claims:

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- 1. A plant comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve improved expression of at least an insecticidal portion of a protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof from a nucleic acid coding sequence in said plant cells, said protein or variant being derived from a Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 δ -endotoxin, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest which is at least equivalent to said Cry3, wherein said genetic sequences comprise a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence.
- 2. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof is a Cry3B protein or variant thereof, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to said Cry3B.
- 3. The plant according to claim 2 wherein said endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof is a Cry3Bb protein or variant thereof, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to said Cry3Bb.
- 4. The plant according to claim 3 wherein said endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof is a Cry3Bb2 protein or variant thereof, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to said Cry3Bb2.
 - 5. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof is a protein as set forth in SEQID NO:2 or SEQID NO:4 or a variant thereof, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to the protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
 - 6. The plant according to claim 5 wherein said endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof is a protein or a variant thereof selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:4, SEQID NO:8, SEQID NO:10, and SEQID NO:12, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to the protein as set forth in SEQID NO:4.

- 7. The plant according to claim 1, wherein said genetic sequence comprising a promoter is selected from the group consisting of CaMV-35S-AS4 promoter, CaMV-e35S promoter, and CaMV-35S promoter, and POX promoter.
- 5 8. The plant according to claim 1, wherein said genetic sequence comprising a promoter is selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:30 and SEQID NO:29.
 - 9. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising an untranslated leader is the wheat chlorophyll ab binding protein untranslated leader.
 - 10. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising an untranslated leader is SEQID NO:31.

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- 11. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising an intron is selected from the group consisting of rice actin intron and HSP70 intron.
 - 12. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising an intron is selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:32 and SEQID NO:33.
- 13. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence is selected from the group consisting of Agrobacterium tumefaciens nopaline synthase transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence and the wheat hsp17 transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence element.
- The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:34 and SEQID NO:35.
- 15. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said genetic sequence comprising said nucleic acid coding sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:1, SEQID NO:3, SEQID NO:7, SEQID NO:9, and SEQID NO:11.
 - 16. The plant according to claim 1 wherein said expression cassette is selected from the group consisting of SEQID NO:15, SEQID NO:38, SEQID NO:19, SEQID NO:21, and SEQID NO:23.

- 17. The plant according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of a monocotyledonous plant and a dicotyledonous plant.
- 5 18. The plant according to claim 17 which is a monocotyledonous plant.
 - 19. The plant according to claim 1 or a progeny of said plant, wherein said plant or said progeny comprise said polynucleotide sequence.
- 10 20. A seed from the plant or progeny of claim 19.

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- 21. A plant germinated from the seed of claim 20.
- 22. A plant comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve improved expression of a Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 insecticidal δ-endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest from a nucleic acid coding sequence in said plant cells, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to said Cry3, wherein said genetic sequences comprise a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, a nucleotide sequence encoding a plastid or chloroplast targeting peptide linked in frame and adjacent to said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence.
- 23. The plant of claim 17 wherein said genetic sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a plastid or chloroplast targeting peptide is a Zea mays ribulose bis phosphate carboxylase synthase small subunit chloroplast targeting sequence.
 - 24. The plant of claim 17 wherein said genetic sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a plastid or chloroplast targeting peptide is SEQID NO:25.
 - 25. A plant comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve expression from a nucleic acid sequence encoding an insecticidal Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 δ -endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest feeding on said plant, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to

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said Cry3, said genetic sequences comprising a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence, wherein said expression of said protein or variant in plant cells of said plant is improved to levels of protein or variant sufficient to protect said plant from Coleopteran pest infestation and sufficient to delay the onset of insect resistance to said protein or variant.

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- 26. The plant of claim 20 wherein said improved expression provides levels of protein or variant in plant cells from about 200 to about 500 parts per million of total plant protein.
- 27. The plant of claim 20, wherein said improved expression provides levels of protein or variant in plant cells from about 100 to about 200 parts per million of total plant protein.
- 28. The plant of claim 20, wherein said improved expression provides levels of protein or variant in plant cells from about 50 to about 100 parts per million of total plant protein.
- 29. The plant of claim 20, wherein said improved expression provides levels of protein or variant in plant cells from about 10 to about 50 parts per million of total plant protein.
 - 30. The plant of claim 20, wherein said improved expression provides levels of protein or variant in plant cells from about 5 to about 10 parts per million of total plant protein.
 - 31. The plant of claim 20, wherein the percentage of plants obtained exhibiting said improved expression providing levels of protein or variant in said plant cells which are greater than about 200 parts per million of total cell protein is from about 0.5 to about 5 percent of all plants obtained after transformation and selection of events using said expression cassette to produce transgenic events.
 - 32. The plant of claim 20, wherein the percentage of plants obtained exhibiting said improved expression providing levels of protein or variant in said plant cells which are greater than about 100 parts per million of total cell protein is from about 0.5 to about 6 percent of all

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plants obtained after transformation and selection using said expression cassette to produce transgenic events.

- 33. The plant of claim 20, wherein the percentage of plants obtained exhibiting said improved expression providing levels of protein or variant in said plant cells which are greater than about 50 parts per million of total cell protein is from about 0.5 to about 8 percent of all plants obtained after transformation and selection using said expression cassette to produce transgenic events.
- The plant of claim 20, wherein the percentage of plants obtained exhibiting said improved expression providing levels of protein or variant in said plant cells which are greater than about 10 parts per million of total cell protein is from about 0.5 to about 18 percent of all plants obtained after transformation and selection using said expression cassette to produce transgenic events.

35. A method for producing a transgenic plant comprising the steps of:

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- a) introducing into the DNA of a plant cell or plant tissue a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve expression from a nucleic acid sequence encoding an insecticidal Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 δ -endotoxin protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest feeding on said plant, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity at least equivalent to said Cry3, said genetic sequences comprising a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence;
- b) growing said plant cell or plant tissue in selective media to obtain a transgenic plant containing said polynucleotide sequence heritably incorporated into said DNA; and
 - c) selecting a plant expressing said protein or variant;

wherein said selected plant exhibits improved expression of said protein or variant in said transgenic plant, said improved expression being improved to levels of protein or variant sufficient to protect said plant from Coleopteran pest infestation and sufficient to delay the onset of insect resistance to said protein or variant when produced in said transgenic plant.

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- 36. The method according to claim 35 wherein said step introducing said polynucleotide into the DNA of said plant cell or tissue is accomplished by nucleic acid coated ballistic particle bombardment, electroporation, or transformation competent Agrobacterium tumefaciens transformed with a plasmid containing said polynucleotide sequence.
- 37. The method according to claim 36 wherein said transgenic plant is a monocot or a dicot.
- 15 38. The method of claim 37 wherein said transgenic plant is a monocot.
 - 39. The method of claim 38 wherein said monocot is selected from the group consisting of corn, wheat, barley, rice, oats, grasses, and bananas.
- 40. The method according to claim 35 wherein said selecting step is accomplished using a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a promoter which functions in plants operably linked to nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker protein linked to a plant operable 3' transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence.
- The method according to claim 40 wherein the selectable marker protein is selected from the group consisting of herbicide tolerance proteins, antibiotic resistance proteins, proteins which catalyze substrates to generate visually observed colored products, and proteins which catalyze substrates to generate fluorescent or luminescent products.
- The method according to claim 40 wherein the selectable marker protein is selected from the group consisting of NptII, GUS, LUX, Hyg, esterase, PhnO, EPSPS, and GOX.
 - 42. A vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in claim 1 for use in transforming a plant, plant cell, or plant tissue, wherein said vector is selected from the group

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consisting of a plasmid, a bacmid, an artificial chromosome, a linear single or double stranded DNA or RNA fragment, and a virus genome.

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- 43. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve improved expression of at least an insecticidal portion of a protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof from a nucleic acid coding sequence in said plant cells, said protein or variant being derived from a Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 δ-endotoxin, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest which is at least equivalent to said Cry3, wherein said genetic sequences comprise a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence, and wherein said expression cassette improves the expression of the protein or variant in a transgenic plant and, improves the number of transgenic events observed to express the protein or variant above a threshold level when said polynucleotide sequence is used for generating transformed plants.
- 44. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence comprising one or more expression cassettes, each cassette comprising genetic sequence elements which function in plant cells to express a desired Bacillus thuringiensis δ -endotoxin insecticidal protein, chimera, fusion, or variant thereof from a nucleic acid coding sequence, wherein said coding sequence is linked upstream to a promoter sequence element, an untranslated leader sequence element, an intron sequence element, and said coding sequence is linked downstream to a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence element, wherein said expression cassette improves the expression of the protein or variant in a transgenic plant and improves the percentage of transgenic events observed to express the desired protein above a threshold level when using said polynucleotide sequence for generating transformed plants.
- A method for controlling Coleopteran insect infestation in a field of crop plants comprising providing a transgenic plant on which said Coleopteran insect feeds, said transgenic plant comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising an expression cassette containing a linear arrangement of genetic sequences which function together in plant cells to achieve improved expression of at least an insecticidal portion of a protein or amino acid sequence variant thereof from a nucleic acid coding sequence in said plant cells, said protein or variant being derived from a Bacillus thuringiensis Cry3 δ-endotoxin, said variant exhibiting an insecticidal activity toxic to a Coleopteran insect pest which is at least equivalent to said Cry3,

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wherein said genetic sequences comprise a promoter operably linked in linear sequence to an untranslated leader, an intron, said nucleic acid coding sequence, and a transcription termination and polyadenylation sequence.

46. The method according to claim 45 wherein the genetic sequences which function together in said transgenic plant improves the expression of the protein or variant in a transgenic plant and improves the percentage of transgenic events observed to express the desired protein above a threshold level when using said polynucleotide sequence for generating transformed plants.

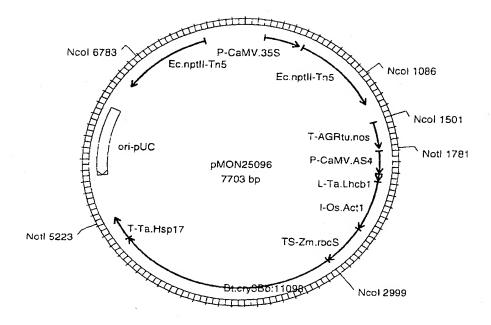


Figure 1

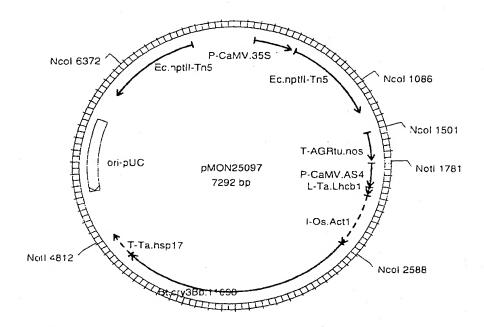


Figure 2

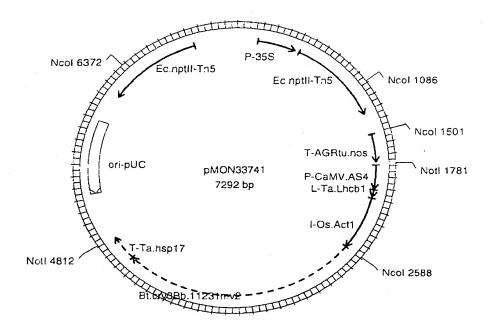


Figure 3

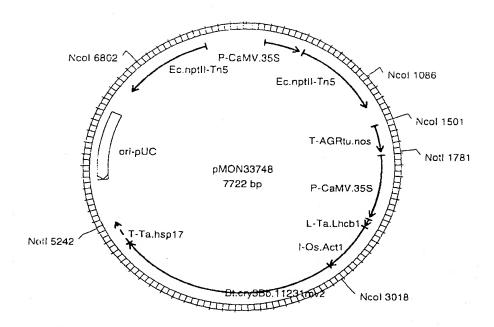


Figure 4

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atg gcc aac ccc aac aat cgc tcc gag cac gac acg atc aag gtc

	95	143	191	239	287	335	383	431	479	527
Val 15	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	gtc Val	$^{\rm ggc}_{\rm G1y}$	tcc Ser 95	ttc Phe	gcc Ala	gag Glu	ctg Leu	gcc
Lys	ctg Leu 30	ttc Phe	acc Thr	ctg Leu	cag Gln	gcc Ala 110	tac Tyr	ttc Phe	Ser	cag
Ile I	ccg	gag Glu 45	Ser	atc Ile	tac Tyr	aag Lys	gag Glu 125	aac Asn	ctg Leu	tcc
Thr]	tac Tyr	aag Lys	aac Asn 60	cag Gln	ttc Phe	tgg Trp	gag Glu	aac Asn 140	cct Pro	tto
Asp T	cag Gln	tac Tyr	gac Asp	999 Gly 75	tcc Ser	GGG	atc Ile	caa Gln	acg Thr 155	ctg
His 7	aac Asn	aac Asn	ctg Leu	gtt Val	acc Thr 90	gac Asp	аад Lys	ctg Leu	aag Lys	gag
Glu F	cac His 25	ctg Leu	gtc Val	gtc Val	ctc Leu	gcc Ala 105	aag Lys	99c G1y	aag Lys	င်ရင
e H	aac Asn	gag Glu 40	gag Glu	Ser	gct Ala	gac Asp	gac Asp 120	caa Gln	tgg Trp	atc
Arg S	acc Thr	gaa Glu	acg Thr 55	atc Ile	ggt Gly	ser	atc Ile	ctg Leu 135	tcc Ser	င်ရှင
Asn A	cag Gln	ctg Leu	Ser	99c Gly 70	gca Ala	ccc	ctg Leu	gag Glu	aac Asn 150	ggc
Asn A	ctc Leu	acc Thr	tca Ser	acc Thr	ttc Phe 85	tgg Trp	gtc Val	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	cag
Pro A	gag Glu 20	Ser	gac Asp	999 Gly	ccc Pro	atc Ile 100	gaa Glu	ctg Leu	gcg Ala	tcc
Asn P	tcc Ser	aac Asn 35	gag Glu	gtc Val	gtc Val	acc Thr	gtc Val 115	gcc Ala	aac Asn	င်ရှင
Ala A	aac Asn	ccc Pro	acc Thr 50	gcc Ala	ggc Gly	aac Asn	caa Gln	aag Lys 130	gtc Val	aag
Met A	ccc Pro	aac Asn	atg Met	gac Asp 65	gtt Val	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	tcc Ser	tac Tyr 145	tac
2.	acc Thr	gac Asp	cgc Arg	aag Lys	gtc Val 80	ttc Phe	atg Met	aag Lys	gac Asp	ငရင

Figure 5B

Arg Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Gly Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala 160 175

575	623	671	719	767	815	863	911	959	1007
ttc Phe	ctc	Ser	caa Gln	99c Gly 255	cgc Arg	ttc Phe	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	ctg Leu 335
aag Lys 190	cac His	tac Tyr	acc Thr	aac Asn	ttc Phe 270	ccc Pro	acc Thr	aag Lys	cac His
tcc Ser	acc Thr 205	ggc	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	ttc Phe 285	ctg Leu	cag Gln	GGC Pro
gtc Val	aac Asn	tgg Trp 220	aag Lys	ggc Gly	aac Asn	ctg Leu	gag Glu 300	ctc Leu	aag Lys
gcc Ala	gcc Ala	gaa Glu	ctg Leu 235	gtc Val	ttc Phe	gtc Val	acc Thr	acc Thr 315	cgc Arg
ttc Phe	gct Ala	gag Glu	cag Gln	aac Asn 250	aag Lys	atc Ile	aag Lys	acg Thr	atc Ile 330
tcc Ser 185	cag Gln	ggс G1у	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	gtc Val 265	ctg Leu	gtc Val	ctc Leu	tcc Ser
ccg Pro	gcc Ala 200	ttc Phe	cgt Arg	tgg Trp	tgg Trp	gac Asp 280	ддс G1у	ctg Leu	aac Asn
atg Met	tac Tyr	gtc Val 215	tac Tyr	aac Asn	gca Ala	ctg Leu	aag Lys 295	ttc Phe	gag Glu
tcc Ser	acc Thr	cag Gln	ttc Phe 230	gtc Val	gac Asp	gtc Val	tcc Ser	atc Ile 310	atc Ile
aac Asn	ccc Pro	gcc Ala	gag Glu	tgc Cys 245	tac Tyr	acc Thr	tac Tyr	ccc Pro	tcc Ser 325
cgc Arg	ctg Leu	gac Asp	gcc Ala	cac His	acc Thr 260	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	gac Asp	ctg Leu
ttc Phe	ttc Phe 195	aag Lys	gtc Val	gac Asp	tcc Ser	acc Thr 275	cgc Arg	acg Thr	ttc Phe
cac His	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 210	gac Asp	acc Thr	ggc Gly	atg Met	atc Ile 290	ttc Phe	acc Thr
tcc Ser	gtc Val	ttg Leu	gag Glu 225	tac Tyr	agg Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	atc Ile 305	ccc Pro
gag Glu	gag Glu	ctg Leu	tcg Ser	cag Gln 240	ctg Leu	agg Arg	tac Tyr	gac Asp	ggt Gly 320

Figure 5C

1055	1103	1151	1199	1247	1295	1343	1391	1439	1487	1535
ggc Gly	gag Glu	tac Tyr	cag Gln	aac Asn 415	gat Asp	aac Asn	gag Glu	tac Tyr	ttc Phe 495	gag
cca Pro 350	gtc Val	ttc Phe	ggc Gly	ccg Pro	tac Tyr 430	cgc Arg	cct Pro	aac Asn	ttc Phe	gcc
agg Arg	tac Tyr 365	cct Pro	gac Asp	tgg Trp	cag Gln	aag Lys 445	ccg Pro	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	gac
ctg Leu	aac Asn	tcc Ser 380	ttc Phe	gct Ala	tcc Ser	tcc Ser	ctg Leu 460	cag Gln	atc Ile	atc
cgc Arg	ggc Gly	acc Thr	tcc Ser 395	gcg Ala	ttc Phe	gac Asp	cag Gln	cac His 475	acc Thr	acc
acg Thr	ser	atc Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val 410	gac Asp	tac Tyr	gac Asp	tcc Ser	99c Gly 490	aac
cac His 345	tgg Trp	acg Thr	aag Lys	gac Asp	gtc Val 425	acc Thr	atc Ile	tac Tyr	agg Arg	ttc
ttc Phe	tac Tyr 360	aag Lys	cag Gln	acc Thr	aag $ ext{L}\gamma$ s	cag Gln 440	tcc Ser	gcc Ala	cgc Arg	ttc
gag Glu	aac Asn	tcg Ser 375	gtc Val	aac Asn	acg Thr	acc Thr	gac Asp 455	аад Lys	gac Asp	gac
atc Ile	ttc Phe	tcc Ser	ccc Pro 390	gcc Ala	gtc Val	tcc Ser	cag Gln	gag Glu 470	caa Gln	gtc
ggc Gly	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	gag Glu	atc Ile 405	ggc Gly	acc Thr	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	atg Met 485	tac
cag Gln 340	gac Asp	atc Ile	acc Thr	acc Thr	ctg Leu 420	gaa Glu	tee Ser	ccc Pro	ctg Leu	cgc
ctc Leu	aag Lys 355	tcc Ser	Ser	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	aat Asn 435	gtc Val	gag Glu	ttc Phe	gac
tac Tyr	ggc $_{ m G1Y}$	ccc Pro	aag Lys	tac Tyr	gtc Val	aag Lys	cac His 450	gac Asp	tgc Cys	acc
gac Asp	ttc Phe	agg Arg	gac Asp 385	gtc Val	aag Lys	cag Gln	ggc Gly	act Thr 465	gag Glu	tgg
ttc Phe	tac Tyr	acc Thr	ggc Gly	aag Lys 400	ggc Gly	gac Asp	aat Asn	acc Thr	gcg Ala 480	acc

Thr Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu 500 510 Figure 5D

1583	1631	1679	1727	1775	1823	1871	1919	1961
ggt Gly	ttc Phe	aac Asn	tcc Ser 575	ctg Leu	tac Tyr	ggc	gaa Glu	
teg Ser	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	ttc Phe 590	acc Thr	tcg Ser	aat Asn	
tcc Ser 525	ctg Leu	acc Thr	tac Tyr	gac Asp	ctg Leu 605	ttc Phe	tcc Ser	ctg Leu
ctg Leu	aac Asn 540	gtc Val	cgc Arg	aat Asn	gac Asp	99c Gly 620	gtc Val	cag Gln
gcc Ala	ggc Gly	aag Lys 555	atc Ile	aac Asn	gat Asp	atg Met	ttc Phe 635	gtc Val
tac Tyr	ggt Gly	ttc Phe	cgc Arg 570	tcc Ser	gac Asp	aac Asn	tcc Ser	ccc Pro 650
gcc Ala	acc Thr	aag Lys	gtc Val	aac Asn 585	aag Lys	tcc Ser	gag Glu	atc Ile
aag Lys 520	ttc Phe	gcc Ala	cgc Arg	cag Gln	aac Asn 600	aac Asn	gct Ala	ttc Phe
gtc Val	99c G1y 535	atc Ile	tac Tyr	gtc Val	atg Met	acg Thr 615	ggt Gly	gag Glu
gtg Val	cca Pro	tcc Ser 550	cgc Arg	ttc Phe	acc Thr	acc Thr	att Ile 630	atc Ile
ccc Pro	ggt Gly	aac Asn	caa Gln 565	ctg	aag Lys	gcc Ala	atc Ile	aag Lys 645
ctg Leu	gag Glu	tcg Ser	ctg Leu	cgc Arg 580	aac Asn	ctc Leu	ctg Leu	gac Asp
cag Gln 515	att Ile	tcc Ser	ttg Leu	ctg Leu	atc 11e 595	gac Asp	gaa Glu	atc Ile
acc Thr	atc Ile 530	gag Glu	gcc Ala	aac Asn	tac Tyr	ttc Phe 610	aat Asn	tac Tyr
atc Ile	tcc Ser	aag Lys 545	gct Ala	acg Thr	atc Ile	acc Thr	aag Lys 625	atc Ile
aag Lys	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	tcc Ser	acc	gtc Val	cag Gln	gac Asp	aag Lys 640

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47		95	143	191	239	287	335	383	431	479
aac ccc aac aat cgc tcc gag cac gac acg atc aag gtc 47	Asn Pro Asn Asn Arg Ser Glu His Asp Thr Ile Lys Val 10	tcc gag ctc cag acc aac cac aac cag tac ccg ctg gcc 95 Ser Glu Leu Gln Thr Asn His Asn Gln Tyr Pro Leu Ala 20	aac tcc acc ctg gaa gag ctg aac tac aag gag ttc ctg 14 Asn Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Leu Asn Tyr Lys Glu Phe Leu 35	gag gac tcc tcc acg gag gtc ctg gac aac tcc acc gtc 15 Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val 55	gtc ggg acc ggc atc tcc gtc gtt ggg cag atc ctg ggc 23 Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly 70	gtc ccc ttc gca ggt gct ctc acc tcc ttc tac cag tcc 28 Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser 85	acc atc tgg ccc tcc gac gcc gac ccc tgg aag gcc ttc 33 Thr lle Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe 100	gtc gaa gtc ctg atc gac aag aag atc gag gag tac gcc 38 Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala 126	gcc ctg gcc gag ctg caa ggc ctg caa aac aac ttc gag 43 Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu 135	aac gcg ctg aac tcc tgg aag aag acg cct ctg tcc ctg 47 Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu 150
gcc a	Ala A	aac Asn	occ	acc Thr 50	gcc Ala	99c G1y	aac Asn	caa Gln	aag Lys 130	gtc Val
atg o	Met A	c ccc r Pro	ic aac ip Asn	rc atg rg Met	ig gac rs Asp 65	c gtt 11 Val 10	c ctg le Leu	g gcc t Ala	lg tcc rs Ser	tc tac p Tyr 145
		acc Thr	gac Asp	cgc Arg	aag Lys	gtc Val 80	ttc Phe	atg Met	aag Lys	gac Asp

Figure 6B

527	575	623	671	719	767	815	863	911	959	1007
gcc Ala 175	ttc Phe	ctc Leu	Ser	caa Gln	ggc Gly 255	cgc Arg	ttc Phe	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	ctg
cag Gln	aag Lys 190	cac His	tac Tyr	acc Thr	aac Asn	ttc Phe 270	ccc Pro	acc Thr	aag Lys	cac
Ser	Ser	acc Thr 205	ggc Gly	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	ttc Phe 285	ctg Leu	cag Gln	CCC
ttc Phe	gtc Val	aac Asn	tgg Trp 220	aag Lys	ggc Gly	aac Asn	ctg Leu	gag Glu 300	ctc Leu	aag
ctg Leu	gcc Ala	gcc Ala	gaa G1u	ctg Leu 235	gtc Val	ttc Phe	gtc Val	acc Thr	acc Thr 315	aga
gag Glu 170	ttc	gct Ala	gag Glu	cag Gln	aac Asn 250	aag Lys	atc Ile	aag Lys	acg Thr	atc
cgc	tcc Ser 185	cag	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	gtc Val 265	ctg Leu	gtc Val	ctc Leu	tac
atc Ile	ccg	gcc Ala 200	ttc	cgt	tgg Trp	tgg Trp	gac Asp 280	ggc Gly	ctg Leu	aac
cgc	atg Met	tac Tyr	gtc Val 215	tac Tyr	aac Asn	gca Ala	ctg Leu	aag Lys 295	ttc Phe	gag
gac Asp	tcc	acc Thr	cag	ttc Phe 230	gtc Val	gac Asp	gtc Val	tcc Ser	atc Ile 310	atc
cag Gln 165	aac Asn	ccc Pro	gcc Ala	gag Glu	tgc Cys 245	tac Tyr	acc Thr	tac Tyr	ccc Pro	tac
tcc Ser	cgc Arg	ctg Leu	gac Asp	gcc Ala	cac His	acc Thr 260	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	gac Asp	ctg
cgc Arg	ttc	ttc Phe 195	aag Lys	gtc Val	gac Asp	tcc Ser	acc Thr 275	cgc Arg	acg Thr	ttc
аад Lys	cac His	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 210	gac Asp	acc	ggc	atg Met	atc Ile 290	ttc Phe	acc
Ser	Ser	gtc Val	ttg Leu	gag Glu 225	tac Tyr	agg Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	atc Ile 305	ממ
cgc Arg 160	gag	gag Glu	ctg	tcg	cag Gln 240	ctg	agg Arg	tac Tyr	gac Asp	ggt

Gly Pro Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu 320 335 335 Figure 6C

1103	1151	1199	1247	1295	1343	1391	1439	1487
gag Glu	tac Tyr	cag Gln	aac Asn 415	gat Asp	aac Asn	gag Glu	tac Tyr	ttc Phe
gtc Val	ttc Phe	ggс Gly	ccg Pro	tac Tyr 430	cgc Arg	cct Pro	aac Asn	ttc Phe
	act Pro		tgg Trp	cag Gln	aag Lys 445	ccg Pro	ctg Leu	ccc Pro
	tcc Ser 380	ttc Phe	gct Ala	tec Ser	ser	ctg Leu 460	cag Gln	atc Ile
ggc Gly	acc Thr	tcc Ser 395	gcg Ala	ttc Phe	gac Asp	cag Gln	cac His 475	acc Thr
Ser	atc Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val 410	gac Asp	tac Tyr	gac Asp	tcc Ser	ggc Gly
tgg Trp	acg Thr	aag Lys	gac Asp	gtc Val 425	acc Thr	atc Ile	tac Tyr	agg Arg
tac Tyr 360	aag Lys	cag Gln	acc Thr	aag Lys	cag Gln 440	tcc Ser	gcc Ala	cgc Arg
aac Asn	tcg Ser 375	gtc Val	aac Asn	acg Thr	acc Thr	gac Asp 455	aag Lys	gac Asp
ttc Phe	ser	ccc Pro 390	gcc Ala	gtc Val	tcc Ser	cag Gln	gag Glu 470	caa Gln
Ser	ggc Gly	gag Glu	atc Ile 405	ggc Gly	acc Thr	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	atg Met
gac Asp	atc Ile	acc Thr	acc Thr	ctg Leu 420	gaa Glu	tcc Ser	ccc Pro	ctg Leu
aag Lys 355	tcc Ser	Ser	cgc Arg	tac Tyr	aat Asn 435	gtc Val	gag Glu	ttc Phe
ggc Gly	ccc Pro 370	aag Lys	tac Tyr	gtc Val	aag Lys	cac His 450	gac Asp	tgc Cys
ttc Phe	agg Arg	gac Asp 385	gtc Val	aag Lys	cag Gln	ggc Gly	act Thr 465	gag Glu
tac Tyr	acc Thr	ggc Gly	aag Lys 400	ggc Gly	gac Asp	aat Asn	acc Thr	gcg Ala
	ttc ggc aag gac tcc ttc aac tac tgg tcc ggc aac tac gtc gag 110 Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355	ttc ggc aag gac tcc ttc aac tac tgg tcc ggc aac tac gtc gag 11 Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct ttc tac Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr 370 370	Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tac atc acc gag ccc gtc cag aag ctg tcc tcc gac ggc cag aag tcc atc gac ggc cag aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag asg tcc atc gac ggc cag aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag asg acg tcc tcc acc gac aag acc gtc cag aag ctg tcc tcc gac ggc cag asg acc gtc acc gac gac aag acg tcc tcc gac ggc cag acc gtc acc gac acc acc gac acc gtc cag aag ctg tcc tcc gac gac ggc acc gtc acc gac acc acc gac acc gac acc acc gac acc gac acc ac	Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tc tac Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr 370 aag tcc acc gag ccc gtc cag aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag Asp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln 395 gtc tac cgc acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn 415	ttc ggc aag gac tcc ttc aac tac tgg tcc ggc aac tac gtc gag 1100 phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac atc ggc tcc tcg aag ccg tcc tcg aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag atc acc gac ccg ccg ccg tcc acc gac ccg ccg tcc acc gac ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac acc atc gcc acc acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac acc acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac acc gac gtc tcc cag tac gac gtc tcc cag tac gat tac gcc acc atc gcc acc acc gac gtc gcg gct tcc ccag tac gat tcc tcc ag tac gat acg gtc tac ctg gcc gtc acg acg gtc gac ttc tcc cag tac gat tac gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc gcc gat tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc gcc gat tcc gcc gat tcc acc gat tcc acc gat tcc tcc acc gat tcc acc acc gat tcc acc gat tcc acc gat tcc acc acc acc gat tcc acc acc gat tcc acc acc acc gat tcc acc acc acc acc acc acc gat acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc a	Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cct ttc tac Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr 370 375 385 gac aag tcc acc gag ccc gtc cag aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag Asp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln 385 gtc tac cgc acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn 415 aag gtc tac ctg ggc gtc acg aag gtc gac ttc tcc cag tac gat Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp 420 cag aag act tcc acc cag acc cag acc tac gac tcc aag cgc aac Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn 415 cag aag at gaa acc tcc acc cag acc tac gac tcc aag cgc aac Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn 445	The Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg cc tcc atc gac tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc ct tcc tcc atc gac dcc gdc cag agg ctg tcc tcg aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag hsp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln 385 gtc tac cgc acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc ggc gct tgg ccg acc atc gcc acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac 122 yal Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn 405 aag gtc tac ctg ggc gtc acg acc tcc cag acc tcc cag acc tcc acc agg cc acc acc acc acc acc acc ac	## GIY Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser GIY Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac 1155 Arg Pro Ser Ile GIY Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr 370 agg ccc tcc atc ggc tcc tcg aag acg atc acc tcc cttc tac 1155 gac aag tcc acc gag ccc gtc cag aag ctg tcc ttc gac ggc cag 1199 ssb Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp GIY Gln 396 gtc tac cgc acc atc gcc aac acc gac gtc gcg gct tgg ccg aac 124' val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn 405 gag aat gaa acc tcc acc aag gcc tac gac ttc cc aag ac gac gtc group acg acc acc acg acc tac gac tcc aag gcc acc acc acc gac tcc acc acc gac tcc acc gac tcc acc acc gac tcc acc acc gac tcc acc acc gac tcc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc a

Figure 6D

	1535	1583	1631	1679	1727	1775	1823	1871	1919	1961
495	gag Glu	ggt Gly	ttc Phe	aac Asn	tcc Ser 575	ctg Leu	tac Tyr	$^{ m ggc}_{ m G1y}$	gaa Glu	
	gcc Ala 510	teg Ser	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	ttc Phe 590	acc Thr	tog Ser	aat Asn	
	gac Asp	tcc Ser 525	ctg Leu	acc Thr	tac Tyr	gac Asp	ctg Leu 605	ttc Phe	tcc Ser	ctg Leu
	atc Ile	ctg Leu	aac Asn 540	gtc Val	cgc Arg	aat Asn	gac Asp	ggc G1y 620	gtc Val	cag Gln
	acc Thr	gcc Ala	ggc Gly	aag Lys 555	atc Ile	aac Asn	gat Asp	atg Met	ttc Phe 635	gtc Val
490	aac Asn	tac Tyr	ggt Gly	ttc Phe	cgc Arg 570	tcc Ser	gac Asp	aac Asn	ser	ccc Pro 650
	ttc Phe 505	gcc Ala	acc Thr	aag Lys	gtc Val	aac Asn 585	aag Lys	ser	gag Glu	atc Ile
	ttc Phe	aag Lys 520	ttc Phe	gcc Ala	cgc Arg	cag Gln	aac Asn 600	aac Asn	gct Ala	ttc Phe
	gac Asp	gtc Val	ggc Gly 535	atc Ile	tac Tyr	gtc Val	atg Met	acg Thr 615	ggt Gly	gag Glu
	gtc Val	gtg Val	cca Pro	tcc Ser 550	cgc Arg	ttc Phe	acc Thr	acc Thr	att Ile 630	atc Ile
485	tac Ser	ccc Pro	ggt Gly	aac Asn	caa Gln 565	ctg Leu	aag Lys	gcc Ala	atc Ile	aag Lys 645
	cgc Arg 500	ctg Leu	gag Glu	tcg Ser	ctg Leu	cgc Arg 580	aac Asn	ctc Leu	ctg Leu	gac Asp
	cac His	cag Gln 515	att Ile	Ser	ttg Leu	ctg Leu	atc Ile 595	gac Asp	gaa Glu	atc Ile
	acc Thr	acc Thr	atc Ile 530	gag Glu	gcc Ala	aac Asn	tac Tyr	ttc Phe 610	aat Asn	tac Tyr
	tgg Trp	atc Ile	tcc Ser	aag Lys 545	gct Ala	acg Thr	atc Ile	acc Thr	aag Lys 625	atc Ile
480	acc Thr	aag Lys	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	tcc Ser 560	acc Thr	gtc Val	cag Gln	gac Asp	aag Lys 640

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Romano, Charles P. <120> Improved Expression of Cry3Bb in Corn <130> 38-21(15304) Cry3Bb Improved Exp. Corn <140> unknown <141> 1999-08-19 <150> 60/097,150 <151> 1998-08-19 <160> 43 <170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0 <210> 1 <211> 1959 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus thuringiensis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1956) <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: naturally occurring nucleotide sequence encoding a Cry3Bb1 amino acid sequence <400> 1 atg aat cca aac aat cga agt gaa cat gat acg ata aag gtt aca cct Met Asn Pro Asn Asn Arg Ser Glu His Asp Thr Ile Lys Val Thr Pro aac agt gaa ttg caa act aac cat aat caa tat cct tta gct gac aat 96 Asn Ser Glu Leu Gln Thr Asn His Asn Gln Tyr Pro Leu Ala Asp Asn cca aat tca aca cta gaa gaa tta aat tat aaa gaa ttt tta aga atg 144 Pro Asn Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Leu Asn Tyr Lys Glu Phe Leu Arg Met 40 act gaa gac agt tot acg gaa gtg cta gac aac tot aca gta aaa gat 192 Thr Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val Lys Asp gca gtt ggg aca gga att tct gtt gta ggg cag att tta ggt gtt gta 240 Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val Val gga gtt cca ttt gct ggg gca ctc act tca ttt tat caa tca ttt ctt 288 Gly Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser Phe Leu aac act ata tgg cca agt gat gct gac cca tgg aag gct ttt atg gca 336 Asn Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met Ala 105 100 caa gtt gaa gta ctg ata gat aag aaa ata gag gag tat gct aaa agt Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys Ser 120

	gct Ala 130		_			_			_					_		432
_	aat Asn						_									480
	aga Arg	_	_	_	_							_	_	_	-	528
	ttt Phe	_			_	_			-	_						576
_	ttt Phe					_		-	-					_		624
	aaa Lys 210	-	-		_			_	_						_	672
-	gtt Val	_	_				_									720
	gac Asp			-					_							768
	tca Ser				-		_				-					816
_	act Thr			-		_			_						-	864
_	cgg Arg 290						_			_					_	912
	acg Thr										_	_				960
	ttt Phe	_	_	Ile	_				Arg					Phe	_	1008
				325					330					335		
	tta Leu	_		att				-	cgt					tac		1056
aaa Tàr		Gln gat	Gly 340 tct	att Ile ttc	Glu	Phe tat	His tgg	Thr 345 tct	cgt Arg	Leu aat	Gln tat	Pro gta	Gly 350 gaa	tac Tyr	Phe aga	1056

aaa tct act Lys Ser Thr 385		Gln Lys I	Leu Ser Pl	3		_
tat cga act Tyr Arg Thr						-
gta tat tta Val Tyr Leu		Lys Val A		_	-	_
aaa aat gaa Lys Asn Glu 435			-	_		
cat gta agt His Val Ser 450			_	_		_
gat gaa cca Asp Glu Pro 465	_	Ala Tyr S	Ser His G	_		_
tgt ttc tta Cys Phe Leu						
aca cat aga Thr His Arg		Phe Phe A			_	
act caa ctt Thr Gln Leu 515		-	_	_	-	
att att gaa Ile Ile Glu 530		-				
gaa tct agt Glu Ser Ser 545		Ala Lys I	Phe Lys V			_
gcc ttg tta Ala Leu Leu			_	-		
aac tta cga Asn Leu Arg		Gln Asn S		_	_	
tac att aat		raat aaa o	gat gat g	at tta aca	tat caa	
Tyr Ile Asn 595					Tyr Gln	Thr
	Lys Thr Med	: Asn Lys A	Asp Asp A	sp Leu Thr 605 gg ttc tcg	ggt gat	aag 1872

tat ata gat aag ata gaa ttt atc cca gta caa ttg taa Tyr Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Phe Ile Pro Val Gln Leu 645 650

1959

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Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg Arg Glu 260 265 270

Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr His Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln Gln Tyr

Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly Leu Arg

245

Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe Tyr Asp

		2,75					200					205			
Ile	Arg 290	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Lys	Gly 295	Val	Lys	Thr	Glu	Leu 300	Thr	Arg	Asp	Ile
Phe 305	Thr	Asp	Pro	Ile	Phe 310	Ser	Leu	Asn	Thr	Leu 315	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Gly	Pro 320
Thr	Phe	Leu	Ser	Ile 325	Glu	Asn	Ser	Ile	Arg 330	Lys	Pro	His	Leu	Phe 335	Asp
Tyr	Leu	Gln	Gly 340	Ile	Glu	Phe	His	Thr 345	Arg	Leu	Gln	Pro	Gly 350	Tyr	Phe
Gly	Lys	Asp 355	Ser	Phe	Asn	Tyr	Trp 360		Gly	Asn	Tyr	Val 365	Glu	Thr	Arg
Pro	Ser 370	Ile	Gly	Ser	Ser	Lys 375	Thr	Ile	Thr	Ser	Pro 380	Phe	Tyr	Gly	Asp
Lys 385	Ser	Thr	Glu	Pro	Val 390	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ser	Phe 395	Asp	Gly	Gln	Lys	Val 400
Tyr	Arg	Thr	Ile	Ala 405	Asn	Thr	Asp	Val	Ala 410	Ala	Trp	Pro	Asn	Gly 415	Lys
Val	Tyr	Leu	Gly 420	Val	Thr	Lys	Val	Asp 425	Phe	Ser	Gln	Tyr	Asp 430	Asp	Gln
Lys	Asn	Glu 435	Thr	Ser	Thr	Gln	Thr 440	Tyr	Asp	Ser	Lys	Arg 445	Asn	Asn	Gly
His	Val 450	Ser	Ala	Gln	Asp	Ser 455	Ile	Asp	Gln	Leu	Pro 460	Pro	Glu	Thr	Thr
Asp 465	Glu	Pro	Leu	Glu	Lys 470	Ala	Tyr	Ser	His	Gln 475	Leu	Asn	Tyr	Ala	Glu 480
Cys	Phe	Leu	Met	Gln 485	Asp	Arg	Arg	Gly	Thr 490	Ile	Pro	Phe	Phe	Thr 495	Trp
Thr	His	Arg	Ser 500	Val	Asp	Phe	Phe	Asn 505	Thr	Ile	Asp	Ala	Glu 510	Lys	Ile
Thr	Gln	Leu 515	Pro	Val	Val	Lys	Ala 520	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Ser	Ser 525	Gly	Ala	Ser
Ile	Ile 530	Glu	Gly	Pro	Gly	Phe 535	Thr	Gly	Gly	Asn	Leu 540	Leu	Phe	Leu	Lys
Glu 545	Ser	Ser	Asn	Ser	Ile 550	Ala	Lys	Phe	Lys	Val 555	Thr	Leu	Asn	Ser	Ala 560
Ala	Leu	Leu	Gln	Arg 565	Tyr	Arg	Val	Arg	Ile 570	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Ser	Thr 575	Thr
Asn	Leu	Arg	Leu 580	Phe	Val	Gln	Asn	Ser 585	Asn	Asn	Asp	Phe	Leu 590	Val	Ile
Tyr	Ile	Asn 595	Lys	Thr	Met	Asn	Lys 600	Asp	Asp	Asp	Leu	Thr 605	Tyr	Gln	Thr
Phe	Asp 610	Leu	Ala	Thr	Thr	Asn 615	Ser	Asn	Met	Gly	Phe 620	Ser	Gly	Asp	Lys

Asn Glu Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Glu Ser Phe Val Ser Asn Glu Lys Ile 630 635 Tyr Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Phe Ile Pro Val Gln Leu <210> 3 <211> 1959 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus thuringiensis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1956) <223> naturally occurring nucleotide sequence encoding a Cry3Bb2 amino acid sequence atg aat cca aac aat cga agt gaa cat gat acg ata aag gtt aca cct Met Asn Pro Asn Asn Arg Ser Glu His Asp Thr Ile Lys Val Thr Pro aac agt gaa ttg cca act aac cat aat caa tat cct tta gct gac aat 96 Asn Ser Glu Leu Pro Thr Asn His Asn Gln Tyr Pro Leu Ala Asp Asn 25 cca aat tcg aca cta gaa gaa tta aat tat aaa gaa ttt tta aga atg 144 Pro Asn Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Leu Asn Tyr Lys Glu Phe Leu Arg Met 40 act gaa gac agt tot acq gaa gtg cta gac aac tot aca gta aaa gat 192 Thr Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val Lys Asp 55 gca gtt ggg aca gga att tct gtt gta ggg cag att tta ggt gtt gta 240 Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val Val 65 70 gga gtt cca ttt gct ggg gca ctc act tca ttt tat caa tca ttt ctt 288 Gly Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser Phe Leu 85 gac act ata tgg cca agt gat gct gac cca tgg aag gct ttt atg gca 336 Asp Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met Ala 100 caa gtt gaa gta ctg ata gat aag aaa ata gag gag tat gct aaa agt 384 Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys Ser 115 aaa gct ctt gca gag tta cag ggt ctt caa aat aat ttc gaa gat tat Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp Tyr 130 135 140 gtt aat gcg tta aat tcc tgg aag aaa aca cct tta agt ttg cga agt Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg Ser 145 150 aaa aga agc caa gat cga ata agg gaa ctt ttt tct caa gca gaa agt

6

170

Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu Ser

	***	<i>J</i> 00/.	1110	,												
					_	_			_	gtt Val				_		576
						_		-	-	aat Asn				_		624
					_			-	-	tgg Trp					_	672
	_	_	_							aaa Lys 235						720
_				_						gga Gly						768
										aac Asn						816
_				-		_			_	ctt Leu					~	864
							_			gaa Glu			_	_		912
										ctt Leu 315	_					960
									_	aaa Lys					_	1008
		_	_	_						ctt Leu						1056
		_								aat Asn		_	-		_	1104
										tcc Ser						1152
										ttt Phe 395						1200
										gct Ala						1248
										agt Ser						1296

					aca Thr				_			_				1344
_	_	_	_	_	gat Asp											1392
_					aaa Lys 470	_		-		-					-	1440
					gac Asp											1488
_		-	-	_	gac Asp						-	_	_	-		1536
					gtg Val											1584
		-			gga Gly											1632
gaa	tct	agt	aat	tca	att	act	aaa	ttt	aaa	at.t.	aca	tta	aat	t.ca	qca	1680
Glu 545		_			Ile 550	_				_					_	
545 gcc	Ser	Ser	Asn	Ser cga	Ile	Ala	Lys gta	Phe aga	Lys	Val 555 cgc	Thr	Leu gct	Asn tct	Ser	Ala 560 act	1728
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gcc Ala aac Asn	ttg Leu tta Leu	ser tta Leu cga Arg	caa Gln ctt Leu 580	cga Arg 565 ttt Phe	Ile 550 tat Tyr	Ala cgt Arg caa Gln	gta Val aat Asn	Phe aga Arg tca Ser 585	ata Ile 570 aac Asn	Val 555 cgc Arg aat Asn	tat Tyr gat Asp	gct Ala ttt Phe	tct Ser att Ile 590 tat	acc Thr 575 gtc Val	Ala 560 act Thr atc Ile	1728
gcc Ala aac Asn tac Tyr	ttg Leu tta Leu att Ile	tta Leu cga Arg aat Asn 595	Asn caa Gln ctt Leu 580 aaa Lys	cga Arg 565 ttt Phe act Thr	Ile 550 tat Tyr gtg Val	Ala cgt Arg caa Gln aat Asn	gta Val aat Asn ata Ile 600	Phe aga Arg tca Ser 585 gat Asp	ata Ile 570 aac Asn gat Asp	Val 555 cgc Arg aat Asn gat Asp	Thr tat Tyr gat Asp tta Leu ttc	gct Ala ttt Phe aca Thr 605	Asn tct Ser att Ile 590 tat Tyr	acc Thr 575 gtc Val caa Gln	Ala 560 act Thr atc Ile aca Thr	1728 1776
gcc Ala aac Asn tac Tyr ttt Phe aat Asn 625	ttg Leu tta Leu att Ile gat Asp 610 gaa Glu	tta Leu cga Arg aat Asn 595 ctc Leu	caa Gln ctt Leu 580 aaa Lys gca Ala ata Ile	cga Arg 565 ttt Phe act Thr act Thr	Ile 550 tat Tyr gtg Val atg Met	Ala cgt Arg caa Gln aat Asn 615 gca Ala	gta Val aat Asn ata Ile 600 tct Ser	Phe aga Arg tca Ser 585 gat Asp aat Asn tct Ser	Lys ata Ile 570 aac Asn gat Asp atg Met ttc Phe	Val 555 cgc Arg aat Asn gat Asp Gly gtt Val 635	tat Tyr gat Asp tta Leu ttc Phe 620 tct Ser	gct Ala ttt Phe aca Thr 605 tcg Ser aat	tct Ser att Ile 590 tat Tyr ggt Gly	acc Thr 575 gtc Val caa Gln gat Asp	Ala 560 act Thr atc Ile aca Thr acg Thr atc	1728 1776 1824

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<211> 652

<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus thuringiensis

<400> 4

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1 5 10 15

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Pro Asn Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Leu Asn Tyr Lys Glu Phe Leu Arg Met 35 40 45

Thr Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val Lys Asp
50 55 60

Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val Val 65 70 75 80

Gly Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser Phe Leu 85 90 95

Asp Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met Ala 100 105 110

Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys Ser 115 120 125

Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp Tyr 130 135 140

Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg Ser 145 150 155 160

Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu Ser 165 170 175

His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu Val
180 185 190

Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu Leu 195 200 205

Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser Glu 210 215 220

Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr His Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln Gln Tyr 225 230 235 240

Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly Leu Arg 245 250 255

Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg Glu 260 265 270

Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe Tyr Asp 275 280 285

Val Arg Leu Tyr Ser Lys Gly Val Lys Thr Glu Leu Thr Arg Asp Ile 290 295 300

Phe Thr Asp Pro Ile Phe Ser Leu Asn Thr Leu Gln Glu Tyr Gly Pro 305 310 315 320

Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu Phe Asp 325 330 335

Tyr Leu Gln Gly Ile Glu Phe His Thr Arg Leu Gln Pro Gly Tyr Ser 340 345 350

Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu Thr Arg 355 360 365

Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr Gly Asp 370 375 380

Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln Lys Val 385 390 395 400

Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn Gly Lys \$405\$ \$410\$ \$415\$

Ile Tyr Phe Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp Gln 420 425 430

His Val Gly Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr Thr 450 455 460

Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr Ala Glu 465 470 475 480

Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe Thr Trp 485 490 495

Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys Ile 500 505 510

Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala Ser 515 520 525

Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu Lys 530 540

Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn Ser Ala 545 550 555 560

Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr Thr
565 570 575

Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asn Asp Phe Ile Val Ile 580 585 590

Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Ile Asp Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr Gln Thr 595 600 605

Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp Thr 610 615 620

Asn Glu Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Glu Ser Phe Val Ser Asn Glu Lys Ile 625 630 635 640

Tyr Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Phe Ile Pro Val Gln Leu 645 650

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<211> 1962

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic or non-naturally occurring nucleotide sequence encoding a Cry3Bb amino acid sequence

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Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser Glu

									ttg Leu					720
_			_						ctc Leu					768
				_		 _			agg Arg		_	_		816
					_		-		ttt Phe				_	864
_									ctg Leu 300					912
								_	cag Gln	_				960
									cct Pro					1008
	_								caa Gln					1056
									tac Tyr					1104
									cca Pro 380					1152
									gat Asp					1200
									tgg Trp					1248
									caa Gln					1296
_							_	_	aag Lys					1344
		_	_						cca Pro 460		_			1392
									ctt Leu					1440

W O 00/	11105							1017
465		470		475			480	
tgc ttt ctc Cys Phe Leu					-			488
act cac agg Thr His Arg	_	_			Asp Ala			536
acc caa ctt Thr Gln Leu 515	Pro Val		_					584
atc att gaa Ile Ile Glu 530					_		-	632
gag tcc ago Glu Ser Ser 545		_	-		Thr Leu		_	680
gcc ttg ctc Ala Leu Leu	_	Tyr Arg	-	_	_	_		728
aat ctt cgc Asn Leu Arg			_		Asp Phe	_		776
tac atc aac Tyr Ile Asn 595	Lys Thr	-	_					824
ttc gat ctt Phe Asp Leu 610								872
aac gag ctg Asn Glu Leu 625					Ser Asn			920
tac ata gac Tyr Ile Asp		Glu Phe				ag	1	962
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Pro Asn Ser		ı Glu Glu	Leu Asn 40	Tyr Lys	Glu Phe 45	Leu Arg	Met	
Thr Glu Asp 50	Ser Ser	Thr Glu 55		Asp Asr	Ser Thr	Val Lys	Asp	

Ala 65	Val	Gly	Thr	Gly	Ile 70	Ser	Val	Val	Gly	Gln 75	Ile	Leu	Gly	Val	Val 80
Gly	Val	Pro	Phe	Ala 85	Gly	Ala	Leu	Thr	Ser 90	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Ser	Phe 95	Leu
Asn	Thr	Ile	Trp 100	Pro	Ser	Asp	Ala	Asp 105	Pro	Trp	Lys	Ala	Phe 110	Met	Ala
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Lys	Ala 130	Leu	Ala	Glu	Leu	Gln 135	Gly	Leu	Gln	Asn	Asn 140	Phe	Glu	Asp	Tyr
Val 145	Asn	Ala	Leu	Asn	Ser 150	Trp	Lys	Lys	Thr	Pro 155	Leu	Ser	Leu	Arg	Ser 160
Lys	Arg	Ser	Gln	Asp 165	Arg	Ile	Arg	Glu	Leu 170	Phe	Ser	Gln	Ala	Glu 175	Ser
His	Phe	Arg	Asn 180	Ser	Met	Pro	Ser	Phe 185	Ala	Val	Ser	Lys	Phe 190	Glu	Val
Leu	Phe	Leu 195	Pro	Thr	Tyr	Ala	Gln 200	Ala	Ala	Asn	Thr	His 205	Leu	Leu	Leu
Leu	Lys 210	Asp	Ala	Gln	Val	Phe 215	Gly	Glu	Glu	Trp	Gly 220	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Glu
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Ile	Arg 290	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Lys	Gly 295	Val	Lys	Thr	Glu	Leu 300	Thr	Arg	Asp	Ile
Phe 305	Thr	Asp	Pro	Ile	Phe 310	Ser	Leu	Asn	Thr	Leu 315	Gln	Glu	Tyr	Gly	Pro 320
Thr	Phe	Leu	Ser	Ile 325	Glu	Asn	Ser	Ile	Arg 330	Lys	Pro	His	Leu	Phe 335	Asp
Tyr	Leu	Gln	Gly 340	Ile	Glu	Phe	His	Thr 345	Arg	Leu	Gln	Pro	Gly 350	Tyr	Phe
Gly	Lys	Asp 355	Ser	Phe	Asn	Tyr	Trp 360	Ser	Gly	Asn	Tyr	Val 365	Glu	Thr	Arg
Pro	Ser 370	Ile	Gly	Ser	Ser	Lys 375	Thr	Ile	Thr	Ser	Pro 380	Phe	Tyr	Gly	Asp
Lys 385		Thr	Glu	Pro	Val 390	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ser	Phe 395	Asp	Gly	Gln	Lys	Val 400

Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn Gly Lys
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- Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp Gln 420 425 430
- Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn Gly 435 440 445
- His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr Thr 450 455 460
- Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr Ala Glu 465 470 475 480
- Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe Thr Trp 485 490 495
- Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys Ile 500 505 510
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- <223> coding sequence for Cry3Bb variant v11231 amino
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PCT/US99/18883

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ttg ctt ctc aaa gac gct cag gtg ttt ggt gag gaa tgg ggt tac tcc Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser 210 215 agt gaa gat gtt gcc gag ttc tac cgt agg cag ctc aag ttg act caa 719 Ser Glu Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr Arg Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln 225 cag tac aca gac cac tgc gtc aac tgg tac aac gtt ggg ctc aat ggt Gln Tyr Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly

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240 245 250 255 ctt aga gga tct acc tac gac gca tgg gtg aag ttc aac agg ttt cgt Leu Arg Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg 265 aga gag atg acc ttg act gtg ctc gat ctt atc gtt ctc ttt cca ttc 863 Arg Glu Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe 275 tac gac att cgt ctt tac tcc aaa ggc gtt aag aca gag ctg acc aga 911 Tyr Asp Ile Arg Leu Tyr Ser Lys Gly Val Lys Thr Glu Leu Thr Arg 295 gac atc ttc acc gat ccc atc ttc cta ctt acg acc ctg cag aaa tac 959 Asp Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Ile Phe Leu Leu Thr Thr Leu Gln Lys Tyr 310 ggt cca act ttt ctc tcc att gag aac agc atc agg aag cct cac ctc 1007 Gly Pro Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu 330 ttc gac tat ctg caa ggc att gag ttt cac acc agg ttg caa cct ggt 1055 Phe Asp Tyr Leu Gln Gly Ile Glu Phe His Thr Arg Leu Gln Pro Gly 345 tac ttc ggt aag gat tcc ttc aac tac tgg agc gga aac tac gtt gaa 1103 Tyr Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu 355 360 acc aga cca tcc atc gga tct agc aag acc atc act tct cca ttc tac 1151 Thr Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr 375 ggt gac aag agc act gag cca gtg cag aag ttg agc ttc gat ggg cag 1199 Gly Asp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln 390 aag gtg tat aga acc atc gcc aat acc gat gtt gca gct tgg cct aat 1247 Lys Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn 400 405 ggc aag gtc tac ctt gga gtt act aaa gtg gac ttc tcc caa tac gac 1295 Gly Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp 420 gat cag aag aac gag aca tot act caa acc tac gat agt aag agg aac 1343 Asp Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn 435 aat ggc cat gtt tcc gca caa gac tcc att gac caa ctt cca cct gaa Asn Gly His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu 450 acc act gat gaa cca ttg gag aag gct tac agt cac caa ctt aac tac 1439 Thr Thr Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr 465 470 gcc gaa tgc ttt ctc atg caa gac agg cgt ggc acc att ccg ttc ttt Ala Glu Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe 480 485 490 aca tgg act cac agg tct gtc gac ttc ttt aac act atc gac gct gag Thr Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu

500 505 510

aag att acc caa ctt ccc gtg gtc aag gct tat gcc ttg tcc agc gga 1583 Lys Ile Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly gct tcc atc att gaa ggt cca ggc ttc acc ggt ggc aac ttg ctc ttc Ala Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe 535 ctt aag gag tcc agc aac tcc atc gcc aag ttc aaa gtg aca ctt aac 1679 Leu Lys Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn 550 tca gca gcc ttg ctc caa cgt tac agg gtt cgt atc aga tac gca agc 1727 Ser Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser 565 570 act acc aat ctt cgc ctc ttt gtc cag aac agc aac aat gat ttc ctt 1775 Thr Thr Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asn Asp Phe Leu 580 585 gtc atc tac atc aac aag act atg aac aaa gac gat gac ctc acc tac Val Ile Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Lys Asp Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr 600 caa aca ttc gat ctt gcc act acc aat agt aac atg gga ttc tct ggt 1871 Gln Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly 615 gac aag aac gag ctg atc ata ggt gct gag agc ttt gtc tct aat gag 1919 Asp Lys Asn Glu Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Glu Ser Phe Val Ser Asn Glu aag att tac ata gac aag atc gag ttc att cca gtt caa ctc 1961 Lys Ile Tyr Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Phe Ile Pro Val Gln Leu 645 taatagatcc cccgggctgc aggaattc 1989 <210> 8

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Met Thr Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val Lys 50 60

Asp Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val 65 70 75 80

Val Gly Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser Phe 85 90 95

Leu Asn Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met Ala Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys 120 Ser Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp 135 Tyr Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu Ser His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu Val Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu 200 Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser Glu Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr Arg Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln Gln Tyr Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly Leu Arg Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg Arg Glu Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe Tyr 280 Asp Ile Arg Leu Tyr Ser Lys Gly Val Lys Thr Glu Leu Thr Arg Asp Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Ile Phe Leu Leu Thr Thr Leu Gln Lys Tyr Gly 315 Pro Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu Phe Asp Tyr Leu Gln Gly Ile Glu Phe His Thr Arg Leu Gln Pro Gly Tyr 345 Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu Thr 360 Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr Gly Asp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln Lys Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn Gly 410 Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp 420 425

Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn
435
440
445

Gly His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr 450 455 460

Thr Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr Ala 465 470 475 480

Glu Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe Thr 485 490 495

Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys 500 505 510

Ile Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala 515 520 525

Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu 530 540

Lys Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn Ser 545 550 555

Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr 565 570 575

Thr Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asn Asp Phe Leu Val
580 585 590

Ile Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Lys Asp Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr Gln 595 600 605

Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp 610 615 620

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 variant 11231mv1 amino acid sequence

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_						tcc Ser	_									191	
_	_	_	_			ggc Gly 70			_	_				_		239	
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						ggc										527	
						tcc Ser									Phe	575	
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				ctg Leu												911	
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	_			cag Gln 340											_	1055	
				gac Asp												1103	•
				atc Ile			_	_	_							1151	
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_	_		_	ctg Leu				_				_				1919	
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Val	Gly	Val	Pro	Phe 85		Gly	Ala	Leu	Thr 90	Ser	Phe	Tyr	Gln	Ser 95			
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Val	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Ile 405		Asn	Thr	Asp	Val 410		Ala	Trp	Pro	Asn 415	
Lys	Val	Tyr	Leu 420		Val	Thr	Lys	Val 425		Phe	Ser	Gln	Tyr 430		Asp
Gln	Lys	Asn 435		Thr	Ser	Thr	Gln 440		Tyr	Asp	Ser	Lys 445		Asn	Asn
Gly	His		Ser	Ala	Gln	Asp		· Ile	Asp	Glr	Leu 460		Pro	Glu	Thr

Thr Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr Ala 470 475 Glu Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe Thr Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys 505 Ile Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu 535 Lys Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn Ser 550 Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr Thr Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asp Phe Leu Val 585 Ile Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Lys Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr Gln Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp 615 Lys Asn Glu Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Glu Ser Phe Val Ser Asn Glu Lys 635 Ile Tyr Ile Asp Lys Ile Glu Phe Ile Pro Val Gln Leu 645 <210> 11 <211> 1984 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: non-naturally occurring nucleotide sequence encoding a Cry3Bb variant 11231mv2 amino acid sequence <220> <221> CDS <222> (3)..(1961) <223> coding sequence for a Cry3Bb variant 11231mv2 amino acid sequence <400> 11 cc atg gcc aac ccc aac aat cgc tcc gag cac gac acg atc aaq gtc Met Ala Asn Pro Asn Asn Arg Ser Glu His Asp Thr Ile Lys Val 10 acc ccc aac tcc gag ctc cag acc aac cac aac cag tac ccg ctg gcc Thr Pro Asn Ser Glu Leu Gln Thr Asn His Asn Gln Tyr Pro Leu Ala gac aac ccc aac tcc acc ctg gaa gag ctg aac tac aag gag ttc ctg

Asp Asn Pro Asn Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu Leu Asn Tyr Lys Glu Phe Leu

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_	_	-	_	gjå aaa					_	-				_		239
_	_		_	ccc Pro		_		_						_		287
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-	_	_	_	gaa Glu		_		_	_	_					_	383
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			_	cac His	_	_					-		_			767
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	_										cgc Arg	_				1055
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Ala Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys

Ser Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp

Tyr Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg 155

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Ala Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys 115 120 125

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Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu 165 170 175

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Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser 210 215 220

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PCT/US99/18883

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Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp 615 620

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	ccc Pro					_		_	_							2458
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_							ggc Gly		_				-			3130
_					_		aaa Lys 555						_		_	3178
	_	_			_	_	atc Ile	_		-	_					3226
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- Asp Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val
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- Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu 165 170 175
- Ser His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu 180 185 190
- Val Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu 195 200 205
- Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser 210 215 220
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Leu Asn Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met 100 105 110

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Tyr Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg 145 150 155 160

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Ser His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu 180 185 190

Val Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu 195 200 205

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- Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr
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	acg Thr				-						_					1794
	atc Tle	_	_					_								1842
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			_	-	_		_			_	_			gtc Val	-	2370
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Met Thr Glu Asp Ser Ser Thr Glu Val Leu Asp Asn Ser Thr Val Lys 50 60

Asp Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Val Gly Gln Ile Leu Gly Val
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Val Gly Val Pro Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Phe Tyr Gln Ser Phe 85 90 95

Leu Asn Thr Ile Trp Pro Ser Asp Ala Asp Pro Trp Lys Ala Phe Met
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Ala Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys 115 120 125

Ser Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp 130 135 140

Tyr Val Asn Ala Leu Asn Ser Trp Lys Lys Thr Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg 145 150 155 160

Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Gly Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu 165 170 175

Ser His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu 180 185 190

Val Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu 195 200 205

Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser 210 215 220

Glu Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln Gln 225 230 235 240

Tyr Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly Leu 245 250 255

Arg Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg Arg 260 265 270

Glu Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe Tyr 275 280 285

Asp Ile Arg Leu Tyr Ser Lys Gly Val Lys Thr Glu Leu Thr Arg Asp 290 295 300

Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Ile Phe Leu Leu Thr Thr Leu Gln Lys Tyr Gly 315 310 315

Phe Gly Lys Asp Ser Phe Asn Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Tyr Val Glu Thr 355 360 365

Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr Gly 370 375 380

Asp Lys Ser Thr Glu Pro Val Gln Lys Leu Ser Phe Asp Gly Gln Lys 385 390 395 400

Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn Gly 405 410 415

Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp 420 425 430

Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn 435 440 445

Gly His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr 450 455 460

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Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys 500 505 510

Ile Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala 515 520 525

Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu 530 535 540

Lys Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn Ser 545 550 555 560

Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr 565 570 575

Thr Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asn Asp Phe Leu Val 580 585 590

Ile Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Lys Asp Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr Gln 595 600 605

Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp 610 615 620

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	acc Thr 90				_			_							-	1122
	gac Asp			_	_		_	_		_	_	_	_		_	1170
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				ttc Phe											2322
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- Ala Gln Val Glu Val Leu Ile Asp Lys Lys Ile Glu Glu Tyr Ala Lys 115 120 125
- Ser Lys Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Gly Leu Gln Asn Asn Phe Glu Asp 130 135 140
- Ser Lys Arg Ser Gln Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Leu Phe Ser Gln Ala Glu 165 170 175
- Ser His Phe Arg Asn Ser Met Pro Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Lys Phe Glu 180 185 190
- Val Leu Phe Leu Pro Thr Tyr Ala Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr His Leu Leu 195 200 205
- Leu Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Val Phe Gly Glu Glu Trp Gly Tyr Ser Ser 210 215 220
- Glu Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Tyr Arg Gln Leu Lys Leu Thr Gln Gln 225 230 235 240
- Tyr Thr Asp His Cys Val Asn Trp Tyr Asn Val Gly Leu Asn Gly Leu 245 250 255
- Arg Gly Ser Thr Tyr Asp Ala Trp Val Lys Phe Asn Arg Phe Arg Arg
- Glu Met Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asp Leu Ile Val Leu Phe Pro Phe Tyr 275 280 285
- Asp Ile Arg Leu Tyr Ser Lys Gly Val Lys Thr Glu Leu Thr Arg Asp 290 295 300
- Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Ile Phe Leu Leu Thr Thr Leu Gln Lys Tyr Gly 305 310 315
- Pro Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu Phe 325 330 335
- Asp Tyr Leu Gln Gly Ile Glu Phe His Thr Arg Leu Arg Pro Gly Tyr 340 345 350
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- Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr Gly 370 375 380
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Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp 420 425 430

Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn 435 440 445

Gly His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr 450 455 460

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Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys 500 505 510

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Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu 530 540

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				ctg Leu												1447
				gtt Val		_		_		_	_		_			1495
		-		acc Thr 90				_			_					1543
				gac Asp			_	-		_	_		_	_	_	1591
				aag Lys												1639
				ctg Leu						-		_			_	1687
				aag Lys			_		_	_		_	-		_	1735
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				ttc Phe												1831
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				cag Gln												1975
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		ctg Leu														2215
		aac Asn			_	_			_		_			_		2263
		ttc Phe														2311
		tac Tyr 360														2359
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		cag Gln														2455
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		cag Gln 440														2599
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		cgc Arg												_		2743
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PCT/US99/18883

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				cgc Arg 570												2983
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	_			aac Asn	-			_		-	_			_		3127
		-		tcc Ser		-			_	_						3175
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Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp 420 425 430

Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn 435 440 445

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-	ctc Leu	_					_	_						_	_	1026
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- Pro Thr Phe Leu Ser Ile Glu Asn Ser Ile Arg Lys Pro His Leu Phe 325 330 335
- Asp Tyr Leu Gln Gly Ile Glu Phe His Thr Arg Leu Gln Pro Gly Tyr 340 345 350
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- Arg Pro Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Pro Phe Tyr Gly 370 375 380
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- Val Tyr Arg Thr Ile Ala Asn Thr Asp Val Ala Ala Trp Pro Asn Gly

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Lys Val Tyr Leu Gly Val Thr Lys Val Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Asp Asp 420 425 430

Gln Lys Asn Glu Thr Ser Thr Gln Thr Tyr Asp Ser Lys Arg Asn Asn 435 440 445

Gly His Val Ser Ala Gln Asp Ser Ile Asp Gln Leu Pro Pro Glu Thr 450 455 460

Thr Asp Glu Pro Leu Glu Lys Ala Tyr Ser His Gln Leu Asn Tyr Ala 465 470 475 480

Glu Cys Phe Leu Met Gln Asp Arg Gly Thr Ile Pro Phe Phe Thr 485 490 495

Trp Thr His Arg Ser Val Asp Phe Phe Asn Thr Ile Asp Ala Glu Lys 500 505 510

Ile Thr Gln Leu Pro Val Val Lys Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala 515 520 525

Ser Ile Ile Glu Gly Pro Gly Phe Thr Gly Gly Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu 530 540

Lys Glu Ser Ser Asn Ser Ile Ala Lys Phe Lys Val Thr Leu Asn Ser 545 550 560

Ala Ala Leu Leu Gln Arg Tyr Arg Val Arg Ile Arg Tyr Ala Ser Thr 565 570 575

Thr Asn Leu Arg Leu Phe Val Gln Asn Ser Asn Asn Asp Phe Leu Val 580 585 590

Ile Tyr Ile Asn Lys Thr Met Asn Lys Asp Asp Asp Leu Thr Tyr Gln $595 \hspace{1.5cm} 600 \hspace{1.5cm} 605$

Thr Phe Asp Leu Ala Thr Thr Asn Ser Asn Met Gly Phe Ser Gly Asp 610 615

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